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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

140 S. PERRY STREET.

DAYTON, OHIO. 45402

WILSON AND SON

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONSTITUTION AND DISCIPLINE

OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

DAYTON, OHIO:

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CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

In the eighteenth century it pleased the Lord our God to awaken persons in different parts of the world, who should raise up the Christian religion from its fallen state and preach the gospel of Christ crucified in its purity.

About the middle of the said century, the Lord, in mercy, remembered the Germans in America, who, living scattered in this extensive country, had but seldom an opportunity to hear the gospel of a crucified Savior preached to them in their native language.

Among others, he raised up WILLIAM OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BOEHM, in the State of Pennsylvania, and GEORGE A. GEETING, in the State of Maryland, armed them with spirit, grace, and strength to labor in his neglected vineyard, and to call, among the Germans in America,

sinners to repentance. These men obeyed the call of their Lord and Master. Their labors were blest, and they established in many places excellent societies and led many precious souls to Jesus Christ. Their sphere of action spread more and more, so that they found it necessary to look about for more fellow-laborers to engage in the vineyard of the Lord, for the harvest was great and the laborers but few. The Lord called others, who were willing to devote their strength to his service. Such, then, were accepted by one or other of the preachers as fellow-laborers.

The number of members in the society in different parts of the country continued to increase from time to time, and the gracious work of reformation spread through the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Several great meetings were appointed and held annually. On such occasions OTTERBEIN would hold particular conversations with the preachers then present, and represent to them the importance of the ministry and the necessity of their utmost endeavors to save souls. At one of these meetings it was resolved to hold a conference with all the preachers, in order to take into consideration how, and in what manner, they might be most useful.

The first conference was held in the city of

Baltimore, Maryland, in the year of our Lord 1789. The following preachers were present:

WM. OTTERBEIN,	ADAM LEHMAN,
MARTIN BOEHM,	JOHN ERNST,
GEO. A. GEETING,	HENRY WEIDNER,
CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.	

The second conference was held in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania, at the house of Bro. SPANGLER, in the year of our Lord, 1791. The following preachers were present:

WM. OTTERBEIN,	JOHN ERNST,
MARTIN BOEHM,	J. G. PFRIMMER,
GEO. A. GEETING,	JOHN NEIDIG,
CH'N. NEWCOMER	BENEDICT SANDERS,
ADAM LEHMAN.	

After mature deliberation how they might labor most usefully in the vineyard of the Lord, they again appointed such as fellow-laborers whom they had cause to believe had experienced true religion in their souls.

In the meantime the number of members continued to increase, and the preachers were obliged to appoint an annual conference, in order to unite themselves more closely and to labor more successfully in the vineyard of the Lord; for some had been Presbyterians or German Reformed, some Lutherans, and others

Mennonites. They accordingly appointed a conference to be held on the 25th of September, 1800, in Frederick County, Maryland, at the house of Bro. FREDERICK KEMP. The following preachers were present:

WM. OTTERBEIN,	CHRISTIAN KRUM,
MARTIN BOEHM,	HENRY KRUM,
GEO. A. GEETING,	JOHN HERSHEY,
CH'N. NEWCOMER,	JACOB GEISINGER,
ADAM LEHMAN,	HENRY BOEHM,
ABRAHAM TRACKSEL,	DIET'K AURAND,
J. G. PFRIMMER.	

There they united themselves into a society which bears the name "UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST," and elected WM. OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BOEHM as superintendents or bishops, and agreed that each of them should be at liberty as to the mode and manner of baptism, to perform it according to his own convictions.

From this time the society increasing still more and more, preachers were appointed to travel regularly, inasmuch as the number of preaching-places could not otherwise be attended to; and the work spread itself into the states of Ohio and Kentucky. It then became necessary to appoint a conference in the State of Ohio, because it was conceived too laborious for the preachers who labored in those states to travel annually such a great distance to conference.

In the meantime Brothers BOEHM and GEETING died, and Brother OTTERBEIN desired that another bishop should be elected (because infirmity and old age would not permit him to superintend any longer), who should take charge of the society, and preserve discipline and order. It was resolved at a former conference that whenever one of the bishops died another should be elected in his place: accordingly, Brother CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER was elected bishop, to take charge of and superintend the concerns of the society.

The want of a *discipline* in the society had long been deeply felt, and partial attempts having been made at different times, it was resolved at the conference held in the State of Ohio, that a general conference should be held in order to accomplish the same, in a manner not derogatory to the word of God. The members of this conference were to be elected from among the preachers in the different parts of the country, by a vote of the society in general. The following brethren were duly elected:

CH'N NEWCOMER,	DANIEL TROYER,
ABR'M HEISTAND,	GEO. BENEDUM,
ANDREW ZELLER,	ABR'M TRACKSEL,
CHRISTIAN BERGER,	HENRY G. SPAYTH,
ABRAHAM MYER,	I. NIGHSWANGER,

JOHN SCHNEIDER,
HENRY KUMLER,

CHRISTIAN MAUM,
JACOB BOWLUS.

The conference convened on the 6th of June, 1815, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. After mature deliberation, they presented to their brethren a discipline, containing the doctrine and rules of the Church, desiring that they, together with the word of God, should be strictly observed.

God is a God of order, but where there is no order nor church-discipline the spirit of love and charity will be lost.

Therefore, brethren, we beseech you to follow the example of our Lord, as it is written, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Let the mind be in you which was in Christ, who took upon him the form of a servant, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," that by his grace we may submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. He who will not submit is in want of humble love. Jesus said, "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another; and whoso loveth not his brother abideth in death." Let us walk in newness of life, that the prayer of our

Lord may be answered in us; that we may be one in him, and that he may give us the glory which he gave to his disciples, that we may be one even as he and the Father are one. Therefore, beloved brethren, let us strive to be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let no one speak or think evil of his brother, but pray God that he may grant us his Spirit and an earnest desire to lead a truly devoted life, to the honor and glory of his holy name. Amen.

CHAPTER II.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

In the name of God we declare and confess before all men, that we believe in the only true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that these three are one: the Father in the Son, the Son in the Father, and the Holy Ghost equal in essence or being with both; that this triune God created the heavens and the earth, and all that in them is, visible as well as invisible, and furthermore sustains, governs, protects, and supports the same.

We believe in Jesus Christ; that he is very God and man; that he became incarnate by the

power of the Holy Ghost in the Virgin Mary, and was born of her; that he is the Savior and Mediator of the whole human race, (if they with full faith in him accept the grace proffered in Jesus;) that this Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, was buried, arose again on the third day, ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, to intercede for us; and that he shall come again at the last day, to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Ghost; that he is equal in being with the Father and the Son, and that he comforts the faithful, and guides them into all truth.

We believe in a holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

We believe that the Holy Bible, Old and New Testament, is the word of God; that it contains the only true way to our salvation; that every true Christian is bound to acknowledge and receive it with the influence of the Spirit of God, as the only rule and guide; and that without faith in Jesus Christ, true repentance, forgiveness of sins, and following after Christ, no one can be a true Christian.

We also believe that what is contained in the Holy Scriptures, to-wit: the fall in Adam and

redemption through Jesus Christ, shall be preached throughout the world.

We believe that the ordinances, viz: baptism and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be in use, and practiced by all Christian societies; and that it is incumbent on all the children of God particularly to practice them; but the manner in which ought always to be left to the judgment and understanding of every individual. Also the example of washing feet is left to the judgment of every one, to practice or not; but it is not becoming of any of our preachers or members to traduce any of their brethren whose judgment and understanding in these respects is different from their own, either in public or private. Whosoever shall make himself guilty in this respect, shall be considered a traducer of his brethren, and shall be answerable for the same.

CHAPTER III.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the members of the CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST, in the name of God, do, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the

body of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action, in faith and practice, also to define the powers and the business of quarterly, annual, and general conferences, as recognized by this church, ordain the following articles of CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted, to make or repeal any rule of Discipline, is vested in a general conference, which shall consist of elders, elected by the members in every conference district throughout the society; provided, however, such elders shall have stood in that capacity three years, in the conference district to which they belong.

SEC. 2. General Conference is to be held every four years; the bishops to be considered members and presiding officers.

SEC. 3. Each annual conference shall place before the society the names of all the elders eligible to membership in the General Conference.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The General Conference shall define the boundaries of the annual conferences.

SEC. 2. The General Conference shall, at every session, elect bishops from among the elders

throughout the Church, who have stood six years in that capacity.

SEC. 3. The business of each annual conference shall be done strictly according to Discipline; and any annual conference acting contrary thereunto, shall, by impeachment, be tried by the General Conference.

SEC. 4. No rule or ordinance shall at any time be passed, to change or do away the Confession of Faith as it now stands, nor to destroy the itinerant plan.

SEC. 5. There shall no rule be adopted that will infringe upon the rights of any as it relates to the mode of baptism, the sacrament of the Lord's-supper, or the washing of feet.

SEC. 6. There shall be no rule made that will deprive local preachers of their votes in the annual conferences to which they severally belong.

SEC. 7. There shall be no connection with secret combinations, nor shall involuntary servitude be tolerated in any way.

SEC. 8. The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

ARTICLE III.

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground

meeting-houses, legacies, bequests or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and behoof of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the church aforesaid.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be no alteration of the foregoing constitution, unless by request of two thirds of the whole society.

CHAPTER IV.—MEMBERS.

SECTION I.

Reception of Members.

Ques. How shall members be taken into our church?

Ans. When at any meeting a person makes known a desire to become a member of our church, then the preacher present shall, in the hearing of the congregation, ask such persons the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that therein only is contained the knowledge of the way of salvation?

2. Have you experienced the pardon of your sins, and have you now peace with God?

3. Are you determined by the grace of God to follow Christ, renouncing the world and all ungodliness, seeking to lead a life of holiness and devotion to God and his cause?

4. Are you willing to be governed by our church-discipline?

1. If the person answer the above questions in the affirmative, and no lawful objections be made by any member, then the preacher shall give his right hand to such person as a member of our church, and record the name on the church or class book; provided, however, that where a church deems it advisable for its protection against imposition a committee may be appointed, who, together with the pastor, may make inquiry as to the advisability of admitting such applicants to membership in the Church according to the foregoing requirements.

2. Any person giving evidence that they are sincerely seeking the Lord, may be received under the watch-care of the Church, but shall not be reported as members, nor shall they have any vote in the Church.

3. If any person thus received under the watch-care of the Church shall cease to manifest a desire to seek the Lord, the preacher in charge, by the consent of the class, can, at any time, after personal labor for their salvation by

the preacher in charge and class-leader, if unsuccessful, publicly drop the name of such seeker.

4. Any preacher refusing or neglecting to ask the foregoing questions, or who shall receive members into the Church in violation of this order, shall be answerable for the same to the conference of which he is a member.

SECTION II.

Duties of Members.

1. All members of this church shall acknowledge and confess that they believe the Bible to be the word of God; that they will henceforth strive, with all their hearts, to seek their eternal welfare in Christ Jesus, and work out their salvation with fear and trembling, to the end that they may be enabled to flee from the wrath to come.

2. Every member shall endeavor to lead a godly life; attend to the ordinances of God's house, namely, baptism and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ; be diligent in prayer, particularly in private, and, for his own edification, attend, when practicable, all of our prayer and class meetings, and meetings for public worship.

3. Heads of families should never omit to

pray with their families, morning and evening, and set them a good example in all the Christian virtues.

4. Every one should strive to walk as in the presence of God; also, accustom himself to a close communion with God in all his employments, and never speak evil of his fellow-beings, but practice love toward friend and foe, do good to the poor, and endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ *in deed*.

5. Every one shall keep the Sabbath-day holy, as required in the word of God; neither buy nor sell, but spend the same in exercises of devotion, in reading and hearing the word of God, and with singing spiritual hymns to the honor and glory of God.

6. It is the duty of every member to lead a quiet, peaceable, and godly life among men, as it becomes a Christian to live in peace, and be subject to the higher or ruling powers, as the word of God requires.

7. It shall be the duty of all our members to encourage our Sabbath-schools by their presence when practicable, and always give them their aid and influence.

8. It is the duty of all members of the Church to pay toward the support of the itinerant ministry, quarterly, or oftener if need be,

in proportion to their ability, as God has prospered them; for the Lord hath ordained that they who preach the gospel shall live by the gospel. (I. Cor. ix. 14; I. Tim. v. 18.)

9. Each member of our church should willingly and freely contribute quarterly, or oftener, if need be, as God has prospered him or her (I. Cor. xvi. 2), to the support of the helpless poor.

10. When it is known by any of our class-leaders that there are poor members among them, who by sickness, accident, or other unavoidable circumstances have been brought to want, it shall be the duty of the leader in charge to go, or appoint one to wait upon the class, to ask alms, money, clothing, or produce, as the circumstances may require; and should any one class be too poor to alleviate its poor, it shall then be made known to the pastor in charge, whose duty it shall be to inform the different classes on his charge; and if it should so happen that any one charge should be insufficient to meet the wants of its poor, it shall be the duty of the presiding elder to present the matter on the different charges at their quarterly conferences, so that the unavoidably poor of our church may be considered and provided for. (I. John, iii, 17; Ps. xii. 1, 2.)

11. Inasmuch as the Lord has commanded us

not to be conformed to this world (Rom. xii. 2), to lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness (James i, 21), and as the principles of the Christian religion, as taught both by the precepts and example of the meek and adorable Savior, are in strict and perfect accordance with these commandments, we therefore humbly beseech and admonish the members of our church to observe these divine precepts. In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works (I. Tim. ii. 9, 10); and whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (I. Peter, iii. 3, 4.)

The foregoing rules are drawn up for the better regulation of our church; and we believe they are founded in the word of God, and incumbent on all who are members of our church to observe. Should any violate or habitually neglect these rules, they shall be, by their respective class-leaders, admonished to reforma-

mation; and should they not reform, they shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require.

It is the advice of the General Conference that all districts, stations, circuits, and missions cheerfully receive the preachers appointed by the stationing committee of the respective annual conferences.

SECTION III.

Trial of Members.

Ques. What shall be done when members tresspass against each other?

Ans. "If thy brother shall tresspass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican;" that is, he shall be expelled.

Ques. What shall be done in case of members accused of tresspass or immoral conduct?

Ans. The class shall appoint one or more to visit the accused brother or sister, and, if possible reclaim him or her; but if unsuccessful, he or she shall be tried by the class to which they

belong, or a committee thereof, chosen by the parties concerned, with the preacher in charge of the circuit or station, who shall be chairman; and if found guilty, the accused shall be expelled, unless satisfaction be given by an expression of repentance or otherwise. If the accused refuse to choose his committee-man, when properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a second person, and these two a third, which committee shall try the case and decide. Yet cases may happen where it would be expedient to choose a committee from any other class or classes than the one to which the parties belong; also, an elder may be chosen as chairman, should the preacher in charge deem it best to do so. But should any member be dissatisfied with the decision, an appeal may be had to the quarterly conference, by giving notice thereof to the preacher in charge or secretary of the trial. (See section on appeals.) In such case, however, the same persons shall not sit in judgment on the same case.

Ques. What shall be done in cases of neglect of duty of any kind, imprudent conduct, indulging sinful tempers of words, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church?

Ans. First, let private reproof be given by the preacher or leader; and if there be an ac-

knowledge of the fault, proper humiliation, and a promise to reform, the person may be borne with. On a second offense, the preacher or leader shall take with him one or two faithful members. On a third offense, let the case be brought before the Church or class, or a select committee; and if there be no satisfactory humiliation, the offender shall be expelled by vote of the society.

In case of trial under this clause, the leader shall act in behalf of the Church; or if the leader be the offender, the steward shall act as prosecutor.

Ques. What shall be done in case of disputes between the members or preachers?

Ans. The preacher to whom it shall be known shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and if necessary, shall recommend to the contending parties a reference, consisting of one arbiter, chosen by the plaintiff, and another by the defendant, and a third by these two; then these three are to decide. But if the preacher to whom the dispute is known shall refuse or neglect to act, then the quarterly conference shall appoint one to carry out the rule; and if either or both disputants refuse to choose an arbiter, the quarterly conference shall appoint the first and second, and these two a third, who shall hear the case and decide.

But if either be dissatisfied with the decision, such may have a right to an appeal to the next quarterly conference for a second arbitration, where each party shall choose two arbiters, and the four shall choose a fifth, a decision of the majority of whom shall be final. Any person refusing to abide by this decision, and every member refusing, in case of debt or dispute, to refer the matter to arbitration when recommended to him by a preacher or leader, or who shall enter into a lawsuit with another member before these measures are taken, shall be expelled without further process, and his or her name be so recorded upon the church-record by the preacher in charge, or the class-leader, except when the case is of such a nature as to require and justify a process at law, as executors or administrators, or when a member is in danger of suffering an unexpected loss of property.

Every class-leader shall keep a record of the proceedings of church-trials, deaths, expulsions, and removals, in a book provided for that purpose; and it shall be his duty, in case of an appeal, to furnish his record to the quarterly conference.

All church-trials shall be conducted in a consistent Christian manner, without the employment of magistrates and attorneys to administer oaths and conduct investigations.

SECTION IV.

Transfer and Dismission of Members.

When members of our society move from one field of labor to another they shall obtain a certificate, by a vote of the majority of the class to which they belong signed by a preacher or leader, except where they are not in reach of a class, in which case any of our preachers may give a certificate to such persons if they are known to be in good standing.

Form of Certificate of Membership.

This is to certify that A. B. is a member of good standing in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, at ———, and is hereby recommended to the confidence and fellowship of Christians everywhere.

[Dates, etc.]

Form of Certificate of Dismission.

This is to certify that A. B. has been until this date a member in good standing in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, at ———, and at ——— request is dismissed from the Church by a vote of the class.

..... Pastor.

[Dates, etc.]

Any person receiving a certificate of membership of good standing is amenable to the class

from which he received it, until he deposit his certificate with some other church or class.

CHAPTER V.—GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION I.

Classes.

1. A class shall consist of three or more members, who shall annually elect one member from their own or some other class, who shall be called their leader, and shall be elected before the ensuing annual conference.

2. Classes shall be divided by a committee, consisting of the preacher in charge and one or more brethren, elected by the Church at any place where it may be deemed necessary. Each class so formed shall have the power of electing its own leader, and shall be considered as having all the rights and privileges of separate classes.

3. In case it becomes impracticable to keep up an organization by the election of class-officers, the members at such place shall be required to join the nearest class within six months; and any one failing to do so may be dropped.

SECTION II.

Duties of a Leader.

1. It shall be his duty to meet his class, in class or prayer meeting, at least once a week, to speak to them concerning the spiritual welfare of their souls, and exhort them to unity and love. He shall extend the freedom of our prayer and class meetings to all sincere and well-disposed persons who may desire to attend them.

2. It shall be his duty to lead a pious life and set a godly example before his class; carefully study the Holy Scriptures, fully qualifying himself for the faithful performance of his duties as leader and counselor of his class. When any of his members are sick or delinquent in the performance of any of their duties as Christians he shall visit them, pray or otherwise labor with them, as circumstances may require.

Any class-leader failing to discharge these duties may, on complaint, be removed by the quarterly conference.

SECTION III.

Stewards and their Duties.

Every class shall annually elect (or, if the class prefer it, the preacher may appoint) one who shall be called the class-steward.

Ques. What are the duties of a steward?

Ans. 1. He shall collect quarterly contributions, or oftener than quarterly, if needed, for the support of traveling preachers. He shall keep an accurate account of the amount paid by each member of the class, in a book provided for that purpose, and report the same to each quarterly conference or official meeting.

2. It shall also be his duty to provide the elements for sacrament; and we earnestly recommend the use of unfermented wine.

3. For the faithful discharge of his duties as steward of his class, he shall be accountable to the quarterly conference, which shall have power to dismiss him for official delinquency.

SECTION IV.

Official Meetings for Stations.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the official meeting?

Ans. 1. All the properly recognized members of the quarterly conference.

2. The preacher in charge shall be the president of the meeting; and in his absence one of the members shall be elected president *pro te.n.*

Ques. 2. What is the business of the official meeting?

Ans. 1. The president shall call the meeting to order, and begin and conclude with prayer.

2. To elect a secretary, who shall make a record of the proceedings of the meeting.

3. To elect a treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from stewards that have been collected, and receipt therefor; and said treasurer shall pay out all moneys in his hands as the official meeting may direct.

4. To receive a statement from each class-leader in reference to the prosperity of religion in his class.

5. This body shall meet once a month, and may meet oftener if circumstances require.

6. It shall be the duty of the official meeting to receive all reports of subscriptions, and moneys collected and disbursed for the interest of the station; and all persons intrusted with subscriptions or moneys shall report the same to the meeting as soon as possible.

7. It shall be the duty of the official meeting to submit its doings to the quarterly conference for examination and approval.

SECTION V.

Quarterly Conference.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the quarterly conference?

Ans. The presiding elder of the district, the preacher in charge, and all the properly recog-

nized preachers, exhorters, leaders, stewards, and trustees of meeting and parsonage houses, and superintendents of Sabbath-schools (when said trustees and superintendents are members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ), who reside within the bounds of the circuit, station, or mission, or hold membership therein.

Ques. 2. What is the business of the quarterly conference ?

Ans. 1. In the absence of the presiding elder, the quarterly conference shall elect a chairman *pro tem.*, whose official acts shall be valid.

2. To elect a secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all their proceedings in a book provided for that purpose, in which the names of all the members composing the said conference shall be entered.

3. To make inquiry into the moral deportment and official character of all its members.

4. To receive and try all appeals, references, and complaints that may come regularly before it; but no member of quarterly conference can be suspended or expelled from the Church prior to a committee trial. When a quarterly-conference preacher or exhorter is accused of any misdemeanor, he shall be tried by a committee of three, of which the accused shall choose one and the quarterly conference a second, and these two

a third, to try the case. If the accused refuse or neglect to choose his committee-man after being properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a first and second person, and these two a third, who shall hear the case and decide; and if the accused is found guilty he shall be silenced; provided, however, either party shall have the right of appeal to the next quarterly conference for a new trial.

5. To grant license to exhort or preach to such as may have been recommended by at least two thirds of the class of which they are members; provided, however, that none shall receive license who can not give satisfactory evidence of their call, experience, soundness in doctrine, and attachment to our church and government. All applicants for quarterly-conference license to preach shall be examined by quarterly conference according to Section II., Chapter VI., of Discipline.

6. To make settlement with the stewards and traveling preachers.

7. To enforce discipline in all the classes under its jurisdiction; but in no case to disorganize a class unless the preliminary steps have been taken as required in Section I., Chapter V., of Discipline.

8. To renew the license of exhorters and

quarterly-conference licensed preachers, annually, if they be found worthy, and to arrange a plan for the local preachers to preach regularly at stated places, as the quarterly conference may direct.

9. After such licentiate preachers have stood in that capacity one or more years, the quarterly conference may recommend them to the annual conference.

10. All preachers recommended to the annual conference, and not received, may sustain their former relation.

11. The quarterly conference, at its last session in each year, shall appoint a steward for the charge, whose duty it shall be to assist the class-stewards to secure the preacher's salary; also, an estimating committee for the ensuing year, which committee shall meet at the time and place specified by the preacher appointed to the charge for the ensuing year, and make out an estimate of the regular expenses of the circuit, station, or mission, and apportion the same among the different appointments according to their several abilities, reporting the same to the quarterly conference for ratification.

Each class, after receiving its apportionment, shall as soon as convenient, on the call of the leader or steward, hold a meeting and appoint a

committee whose duty it shall be to make a dividend of the apportionment to each member thereof according to his or her ability, to be paid quarterly or monthly ; provided, however, that it shall be the privilege of any class to collect the amount apportioned to it by subscription or otherwise.

Ques. 3. How are preachers from other societies received ?

Ans. If they come to us with certificates of good standing in the society in which they have had membership, and give satisfaction to the quarterly conference on examination on the doctrine, discipline, government, and usages of our church, then the quarterly conference may license them, with the understanding that the quarterly conference relation continue for at least one year, (provided, that an elder, ordained by the laying on of hands, coming to us shall be allowed to perform the functions of an elder during his probation,) after which, if their conduct and doctrine be in accordance with the gospel of Christ, they may be received into the annual conference as preachers, or elders, as the case may be.

Ques. 4. What directions are necessary in case of appeals ?

Ans. Any exhorter or preacher, dissatisfied

with the decision of a quarterly conference, shall within thirty days after the quarterly conference, notify the secretary, in writing, of his intention to appeal, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to take or send a certified copy of the proceedings, the notification, and reasons assigned, to the annual conference.

In all cases of appeal, whether to the quarterly, annual, or General Conference, the course laid down in this section on appeals is the proper course to be pursued.

Ques. 5. Where shall our next quarterly conference be held?

Ques. 6. Is there anything more to be done?

All exhorters, and quarterly and annual conference preachers are required to join some convenient class, and upon neglect or refusal to do so shall lose their official relation.

It shall also be the duty of the quarterly conference to open and close with prayer.

SECTION VI.

Annual Conference.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of this conference?

Ans. All the elders and licentiate preachers who have been duly received by the conference;

provided, first: That any annual conference may receive into its body one layman from every charge in its bounds whenever two thirds of its members shall, in a regular annual session, decide so to do, notice of such vote to be given twenty-four hours before the time. Second: When an annual conference has adopted lay representation, it shall provide for the appointment of such lay representatives by such methods as in its wisdom it may deem best. Third: The laymen thus chosen shall have all the privileges and rights of ministers in the annual conference, except the right to vote for the reception or expulsion of preachers, the passing of preachers in the course of reading, and the right to vote for presiding elders.

Ques. 2. In what manner are the transactions of a conference to be conducted?

Ans. 1. A portion of scripture shall be read; also, singing and prayer each day, at the opening and closing of conference.

2. The conference shall elect two secretaries, one German and one English, wherever it may be necessary, one of whom shall immediately on the adjournment of the annual conference transmit to the publishing agent at Dayton, Ohio, a true transcript of the footings of the conference chart. If no bishop should be present, it shall be

the duty of the annual conference to elect a bishop *pro tem.*, whose official acts shall be valid.

3. The preachers shall be examined respecting their deportment toward their fellow-beings, whether their conduct in life be blameless, and whether they employ as much time as practicable to promote the kingdom of God, (according to 'Titus, 1st chapter, 7th to 9th verse, and II. Tim., 2d chapter, 15th verse,) and if found delinquent shall be admonished or advised, as the case may require. But should all admonition or advice fail, then the name of the delinquent person shall be erased from the minutes of the conference.

4. Should any member of the annual conference absent himself from the session of conference three years in succession, without giving a satisfactory reason for so doing, his name may be erased from the minutes of the conference.

5. No preacher shall be permitted to electioneer favorably to his own election to any office or delegation in the Church; and should any one be found doing so, he shall be accountable to the next annual conference of which he is a member, to be dealt with according to the judgment of said conference.

The following questions shall also be asked:

1. Have any of the preachers died during the last year?

2. Who are candidates for the ministry?
3. Are any to be ordained to the office of elder?
4. What has been collected for contingent expenses and the salary of traveling preachers?
5. What has been done for missions?
6. What has been done for Sabbath-schools?
7. Has reckoning been made with the traveling preachers?
8. Who are the presiding elders?
9. Where are the preachers stationed this year?
10. Where shall our next conference be held?
11. Is there anything else to be done?
12. Is all that has been done entered upon record?

SECTION VII.

General Conference.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the General Conference? (*See Constitution.*)

Ques. 2. What shall be the number of delegates to the General Conference?

Ans. Not less than two nor more than four from each annual-conference district. All conferences having less than three thousand members shall be entitled to two delegates. All conferences having three thousand and under five thousand members shall be entitled to three

delegates. All conferences having six thousand five hundred members and over that number, shall be entitled to four delegates.

The Board of Bishops shall as early as possible announce the number of delegates to which each conference shall be entitled, as appears from the statistics of the annual conferences at the end of the third year of the term.

Ques. 3. How are they to be elected?

Ans. 1. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to appoint a committee of three to receive and count the votes, and immediately apprise those who may have been elected; also to furnish each preacher in charge with a list of the names of all the elders eligible.

2. The leader and steward of each class shall constitute a board of election, who shall be furnished a copy of the above-named list, by the preacher in charge, at least ten months before the sitting of the General Conference; and the election shall be held invariably in the month of November next preceding the sitting of said conference.

3. It shall be the duty of each board of election to appoint a meeting of the members of their respective classes or churches, as the case may be, for the purpose of electing, by ballot, their delegates to represent them in General Conference.

Should any member be incapacitated by age or affliction to attend such meetings, and should any minister be absent on his charge, they may send their ballots containing the names of their choice, and their own names signed on the back of their ballots; provided, no votes shall be counted except those cast at the appointed meetings.

4. It shall be the duty of each board of election invariably to sign, inclose, and seal each bill of election, and keep a correct record of the same, also of all members voting, and immediately transmit a copy of, such bill, stating what class, circuit, mission, or station, to the committee appointed by the annual conference.

5. Said committee shall make out a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. And should any two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, the committee shall determine, by lot, which of them is elected. They shall also forward by the first of February, the names of those elected to the conference Printing Establishment for publication; and if one or more of those elected should be prevented, by death, sickness, or otherwise, from attending, it shall be the duty of the tellers to notify the next highest on the bill to take his place; and so descend, if need be, to the last candidate. All bills of election received

by the tellers after the first of January shall not be counted.

6. It shall be the duty of each presiding elder to furnish each preacher in charge on his district with blank bills of election, the same to be distributed by said preachers to their respective boards of election.

Ques. 4. How shall the expenses of the delegates to the General Conference be defrayed?

Ans. The annual conference next preceding the election of delegates to the General Conference shall ascertain the amount of money that will be necessary to defray the expenses of its delegates to General Conference, and apportion the same among its different fields of labor; and the preacher in charge shall collect and forward such amount to the presiding elder of his district, who shall transmit such amount to the tellers by the first of February preceding the General Conference. Should any preacher neglect his duty, he shall be accountable therefor to the next annual conference.

It shall be the duty of the General Conference to examine the administration of each annual conference, whether it has strictly observed the rules, and preserved the *moral* and *doctrinal* principles of the Discipline in all its transactions.

In the election of all officers of the General

Conference, a majority of all the votes shall be necessary to a choice.

CHAPTER VI.—MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION I.

Exhorters.

Ques. How are exhorters received?

Ans. Any person wishing to obtain license to exhort must obtain from the class of which he is a member, by a vote of two thirds of the members, a recommendation in writing, signed by the leader, or preacher in charge, to the quarterly conference of the circuit, station, or mission to which he belongs.

Ques. What are the duties of exhorters?

Ans. To make appointments wherever acceptable to the people; read portions of sacred scripture, exhorting therefrom; exhorting saints, that they with purpose of heart should cleave to the Lord, and sinners to flee from the wrath to come; and this they shall do as often as practicable.

The license of an exhorter is subject to renewal annually, at the discretion of the quarterly conference.

SECTION II.

Quarterly-Conference Preachers.

Ques. How are quarterly-conference preachers received?

Ans. Any person wishing to obtain license to preach must obtain from the class of which he is a member, by a vote of two thirds of the members, a recommendation in writing, signed by the leader or preacher, to the quarterly conference of the circuit, station, or mission to which he belongs; *provided*, That the person making application shall be examined by the quarterly conference, and the following questions asked by the chairman:

1. Do you believe in our confession of faith as taught in our book of Discipline?

2. Have you now peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

3. What is your motive in desiring permission to preach the gospel?

4. Are you satisfied with our church-government?

5. Will you submit yourself to the counsel of your brethren?

6. What is your knowledge of depravity, of redemption, of faith, of repentance, of justification, and of sanctification?

It shall be the privilege of the chairman to ask any other question or questions that he may deem necessary.

Quarterly-conference licensed preachers are required to pursue the course of reading prescribed in our book of Discipline, and to be examined annually by the presiding elder and preacher in charge at the fourth quarterly meeting.

The license of a quarterly-conference preacher is subject to renewal annually, at the discretion of the quarterly conference.

After such licentiate preachers have stood in that capacity one or more years, the quarterly conference may recommend them to the annual conference.

All preachers recommended to the annual conference, and not received, may sustain their former relation.

SECTION III.

Annual-Conference Preachers.

Ques. How are preachers received?

Ans. Every person proposed as a preacher shall be examined by the annual conference or a select committee thereof; and the following questions shall be asked him:

1. Have you known God in Christ Jesus to be a sin-pardoning God?

2. Have you now peace with God ; and is the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit ?

3. Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that therein is contained the only true way to our salvation ?

4. What foundation have you for such belief ?

5. Do you follow after holiness ?

6. What is your motive for desiring permission to preach the gospel ?

7. Do you believe that man, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is fallen from original righteousness, and is not only entirely destitute of holiness, but is inclined to evil, and only evil, and that continually ; and that except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of heaven ?

8. What is your knowledge of redemption, of faith, of repentance, justification, and sanctification ?

9. Does your own salvation, and the salvation of your fellow-mortals, lie nearer to your heart than all other things in the world ?

10. Will you subject yourself to the counsel of your brethren ?

11. Are you satisfied with our church-government ?

12. Are you willing, as much as is in your

power, to assist in upholding the itinerant plan ?

None can be admitted without having a recommendation from the quarterly conference, and then only to be received on probation ; but if conference should, on examination, find that his abilities are insufficient to preach the gospel, it may refer him back to the quarterly conference, for further instruction.

When a preacher or elder has been expelled or formally withdraws from one annual conference, he shall not be received into another without the consent of the conference from which he has been expelled.

A preacher or elder who shall labor in the bounds of an annual conference, other than the one to which he belongs, for two years, shall be required to obtain a transfer from the conference to which he belongs and unite with the conference in whose bounds he labors, or to return to his own conference for work ; provided, that presidents and professors of schools and colleges, and others engaged in general church-work, shall be exempt from this requirement.

A preacher removing from one conference to another shall, when he applies to another for admission, produce a transfer from the conference to which he formerly belonged, signed by the presiding officer, or published in the minutes

of the conference from which he has been transferred.

A preacher or elder who receives a transfer is required to present said transfer to another conference, or return it to the conference by which it was issued, within eighteen months after its date. Otherwise the transfer shall be null and void, and the name of the preacher shall be published as no longer connected with the Church as a minister; *provided*, Preachers taking transfers to the Pacific coast shall be allowed two years in which to present their transfers.

A preacher or elder receiving a transfer shall be a member of the quarterly conference in whose bounds he may reside, and also be accountable for his moral and official conduct to the annual conference granting said transfer, until his transfer be received by the conference to which he has been transferred.

SECTION IV.

Reception of Preachers from Other Churches.

Ques. How are preachers from other societies received?

Ans. If they come to us with certificates of good standing in the society in which they have had membership, and give satisfaction to the

quarterly conference on examination on the doctrine, discipline, government, and usages of our church, then the quarterly conference may license them, with the understanding that the quarterly-conference relation continue for at least one year (provided, that an elder, ordained by the laying on of hands, coming to us shall be allowed to perform the functions of an elder during his probation), after which, if their conduct and doctrine be in accordance with the gospel of Christ, they may be received into the annual conference as preachers or elders, as the case may be.

All ordained elders of other denominations who may join our church as such must pass the examination required of candidates for elders' orders given in the following section; but they may be exempt from the laying on of hands.

SECTION V.

Election of Elders.

Ques. How is an elder constituted?

Ans. After a probation of three years, a preacher may be presented to the annual conference; whereupon the bishop shall propose to conference the following questions:

Ques. 1. Is he blameless touching the marriage state?

2. Is his deportment in the social circle marked with watchful sobriety?

3. Is he hospitable toward the afflicted and needy?

4. Is he faithful in the public ministration of God's word, and diligent in reading and study?

5. Is his household subject to rules of piety?

Should the above questions be answered in the affirmative, a committee of three or five elders shall be appointed, before whom the candidates shall appear, and answer to the following questions, namely:

Ques. 1. Upon what foundation do you believe the Bible to be the word of God?

2. How do you prove the fall of man by transgression?

3. How do you prove the redemption of man by Jesus Christ?

4. Do you believe in the godhead of Jesus Christ?

5. What foundation have you for such a belief?

6. Do you believe in the Holy Ghost as presented in our confession of faith?

7. Upon what evidence do you believe this?

8. Do you believe in future everlasting punishment?

It shall be the privilege of the committee, in

the close, to propose any question touching the answers given, wherein their understanding may not have been distinct. It shall also be their duty to make out, sign, and deliver to conference a report of each case which may have been before them. Whereupon, by a majority of the votes of the elders of conference, said candidates may be elected to ordination. All ordained elders of other denominations, who may join our church as such, must pass the above examination; but they may be exempt from the laying on off hands; yet, circumstances demanding it, a licentiate may be presented to conference for ordination at any time prior to a probation of three years, provided two thirds of the elders present vote for the same.

SECTION VI.

Ordination of Elders.

1. On the day appointed there shall be a suitable sermon delivered.

2. After their names have been read aloud, the bishop or elder shall read the following articles to all who may be chosen for ordination:

An elder " must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good

men, sober, just, holy, temperate ; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers." (Titus i. 7-9.)

Ques. Are you assured that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry, to serve God in the church of Christ to the honor and glory of his holy name? If so, answer, I trust I am.

Ques. Do you believe the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament? If so, answer, I do believe them.

Ques. Will you apply due diligence to frame and fashion your life according to the doctrines of Christ, and to make yourself, as much as in you lieth, a wholesome example of the flock of Christ? If so, answer, I will, the Lord being my helper.

Ques. Will you obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, and follow their godly admonitions with a willing and ready mind? If so, answer, I will endeavor, through the grace of God, to do so.

Then prayer is to be offered.

After prayer, the bishop and elders shall lay their hands upon the head of every one of them, and say :

Take thou authority to execute the office of an

elder in the church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

[Hereupon the bishop or elder shall deliver to every one of them the Holy Bible, saying:]

Take thou authority to preach the word of God, and administer the ordinances in the church of Christ.

[Then the bishop or elder shall pray. And after prayer he shall read from Luke xii. 35 38:]
“ Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.” [After this the following benediction is to be pronounced:]

The peace of God keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECTION VII.

Duties of Elders.

It is the duty of an elder to preach as often as he can ; to baptize, to administer the Lord's supper, solemnize marriages, to perform all parts of divine service, to be an example to the flock of Christ by imitating his moral example ; and in a very special manner it shall be the duty of an elder to cherish and encourage young ministers, and always to be looking for those whom God has called to preach, and advise them to take up the cross, and begin the work without delay, that the labor of this gospel harvest may be faithfully performed.

SECTION VIII.

Presiding Elders and their Duties.

Ques. 1. How shall the presiding elders be elected ?

Ans. The annual conference shall elect them by ballot. A majority of the whole number of votes shall be necessary to a choice.

Ques. 2. What shall be done for the support of the presiding elders ?

Ans. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to make such regulations for the support of the presiding elders as they in their wisdom may think best calculated to accomplish the desired end.

Ques. 3. How shall they be stationed?

Ans. By the bishop and two elders or preachers from each presiding-elder district.

Ques. 4. What are the duties of a presiding elder?

Ans. 1. To travel through the district appointed him, and to preach as often as is practicable.

2. He shall appoint the quarterly and camp meetings, and attend them. He shall hold quarterly conferences, and administer the ordinances of God's house. He shall inquire whether the preachers do their duty, and exhort them to maintain discipline and order, love and seriousness in the society. He may also call extra quarterly conferences by the consent of a majority of the quarterly-conference members.

3. It shall be his duty to make strict inquiry if each itinerant minister has received the amount of salary due him, and in case of a deficiency to make an earnest effort to secure the balance due him.

4. He may also, in conjunction with two elders, preachers, exhorters, or leaders (one from each circuit), change the preachers in his district.

5. Each presiding elder shall give a report in writing, of his district, annually, to the annual conference.

6. Should any district happen to be without a presiding elder, information shall be immediately given to a bishop, who shall appoint an elder to preside in said district until the ensuing annual conference.

SECTION IX.

Bishops—Election and Duties.

Ques. How are the bishops to be elected?

Ans. The General Conference shall elect them, for the term of four years, by a majority of the whole number of votes, to be, at the option of conference, re-elected. The bishops must be capable of attending the conferences appointed them; otherwise they can not be elected.

Ques. How shall the bishops' fields of labor be assigned them?

Ans. By the General Conference; and in the fields thus assigned them they shall devote their whole time. They shall be required to reside within the bounds of the district assigned them, if practicable; *provided*, however, that they shall have the privilege of making such temporary interchanges as the welfare of their districts may demand.

Ques. How shall the salaries of the bishops be secured?

Ans. 1. The General Conference, after fixing

the salaries of the bishops, shall by a committee, consisting of the chairman of each annual-conference delegation, in conjunction with the bishop of the district, assess said salary, together with the amount necessary for moving and traveling expenses, to each conference within his district according to their several abilities.

Ans. 2. Each annual conference shall apportion its respective part of the salary of its bishop, annually, to the several fields of labor in its bounds, according to the ability thereof.

Ques. What are the duties of bishops?

Ans. 1. To preside over the annual and general conferences, and strictly examine into the moral and official character of the members of the annual conferences in the bounds of their districts, and insist upon it that all the laws of the Church are faithfully executed.

2. In conjunction with the presiding elders of the past and present year, together with an equal number of local elders or preachers, they may fix the appointments of the traveling preachers for the several circuits, stations, and missions; *provided*, That they do not allow any itinerant preacher to remain on the same station or circuit more than three consecutive years, unless particular circumstances require it, and then only with consent of the conference.

3. The bishop, in conjunction with two elders, elected by ballot, from each presiding-elder district, shall appoint the presiding elders to their respective districts.

4. It shall be their duty to perform the rite of ordination at the annual conferences, and at such other times and places as circumstances may require it, and then only upon such persons as have passed the usual examination required of candidates for ordination, by a committee of three elders chosen for that purpose by one of the bishops.

5. The bishops shall hold annual meetings, in which they shall determine the time of holding the annual conferences, decide questions of Discipline, adopt measures to secure uniformity in their administration, and, when circumstances demand it, appoint fast and thanksgiving seasons, and counsel upon the general interests of the Church.

6. In conjunction with the Board of Missions, the bishop shall have power to organize mission-conferences.

7. The bishops shall devote as much of their time as possible, consistent with their other duties, to visiting our missions, exploring new fields, and working upon the general financial and educational interests of the Church.

8. The bishops shall publish annually, in the columns of the *Religious Telescope* and *Fröhliche Botschafter*, reports of their respective districts, and also the amount of salary received from the several annual conferences in their charge.

9. When a bishop fails to perform his duty, unless through unavoidable circumstances, he can not be suffered to retain his office.

10. It shall be the duty of the bishops to see that a suitable sermon be delivered to the preachers present at each annual conference.

Should any district become destitute of a bishop by death or otherwise, the senior of the remaining bishops, on due notice of said fact, shall call together at some central point in the vacated district the delegates of the preceding General Conference from said bishop's district, who shall elect a bishop to fill the vacancy. The expenses of said delegates shall be provided for by the conferences to which they belong.

SECTION X.

Preacher's Duties.

Ques. What are the duties of preachers?

Ans. To preach Christ crucified, form classes, and report the same to the annual conferences; converse with the members on the spiritual condition of their souls; administer relief; strength-

en and direct those that are afflicted and labor under temptations; animate the indolent; endeavor as much as possible to edify and instruct all in faith, in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ; visit the sick on all occasions; strive to enforce and confirm the doctrine they deliver by a well-ordered and exemplary life.

Ques. What are the directions given to our preachers?

Ans. 1. Be diligent. Never trifle away your time. Always be serious. Let your motto be, "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD!" Avoid all lightness and jesting; converse sparingly; conduct yourself prudently with women; and demean yourself in all respects as a true Christian. Be at all times averse to crediting evil reports; believe evil of no one without good evidence. Put the best construction on everything.

2. Speak evil of no one. Whatever may be your thoughts, keep them within your own breasts until you can tell the person concerned what you think wrong in his conduct.

3. Let your business be to save as many souls as possible. To this employment give yourself up wholly. Visit those who need it; and act in all things, not according to your own wills, but as sons in the gospel; for as such it becomes your duty to employ your time in the manner

prescribed, in preaching, and visiting from house to house; in instruction and prayer, and in meditating on the word of God. With these be occupied until our Lord cometh.

No preacher shall arbitrarily form a circuit, mission, or station within the limits of a circuit or presiding elder's district, or shall receive compensation for labor performed without the consent of the preacher in charge, nor shall any minister preaching in a different language accept a call from any regularly organized class or congregation which does not belong to his conference, without the consent of the annual conference to which the charge making the request may belong. Any preacher violating the provisions of this section shall be amenable to his quarterly or annual conference.

SECTION XI.

Itinerant Preachers' Duties.

Ques. What are the duties of an itinerant preacher?

Ans. 1. To take the charge assigned him willingly, and move to it if practicable.

2. To attend the appointments on his circuit regularly, preach to the people and hold class-meetings.

3. To hold a society-meeting at least one

month previous to annual conference, and revise the church-book. He shall make inquiry into the moral standing of each member; and in no case shall he dispose of a member without the consent of the class or church, except in cases of special law requiring the erasure of the name of an offending member; and he shall render a true report of his membership to the annual conference. At the said meeting he shall also see that a class-leader and steward are elected.

4. To read the following four sections of our Discipline every six months, in each regular congregation; namely, *The Confession of Faith, Reception and Duties of Members, Ardent Spirits, and Secret Societies.*

5. To sit as president on the trial of members and see that a correct account of the same is kept.

6. To render a strict account in writing of the condition of his circuit to each quarterly conference, where he is to be held accountable for the neglect of any regular appointment on his circuit. He shall also report the number of appointments, pastoral visits, and any change that may have taken place in the membership of his charge.

7. It shall be his duty to use every laudable effort to circulate our books and church-periodi-

cals, and to use due diligence to advance the interests of the conference Printing Establishment.

8. It shall be his duty to keep a list of the names of all the subscribers to our church-periodicals, and the time of subscribing, at the different appointments on his circuit, and hand it over to his successor at the annual conference, with the list of the appointments. He shall also report the number of subscribers to our periodicals on his field of labor at each quarterly conference, and be examined by the presiding elder and quarterly conference as to whether he performs his duty in circulating the periodicals of the Church among the people of his charge.

9. No preacher shall dismiss any appointment from his circuit, or mission, without the consent of quarterly conference.

10. He shall secure a suitable book for a church-record, in which he shall register all the appointments and classes on his circuit, station, or mission, in their regular order, with the name of each member attached to his or her class. He shall also make a record of all the baptisms, marriages, deaths, and proceedings of church-trials, with names of all the parties in each case. He shall report this record with the proceedings therein to the last quarterly confer-

ence of each year for approval or improvement. This book shall be the property of the quarterly conference, and shall be in addition to the regular class-books and circuit-book.

11. It shall be the duty of preachers in charge of circuits, stations, and missions, to collect the annual amount apportioned to their fields of labor for the support of the bishops and presiding elders.

12. He shall hold a general missionary meeting at some convenient place on his work. He shall also preach a missionary sermon, and appoint a soliciting committee at every appointment, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with himself, to canvass the class and community, personally, to solicit funds for the missionary society. He shall also keep a list of the names of contributors, so far as possible, and report the same to conference for publication with the minutes, or in the annual report of the Board of Missions, as the conference may direct. He shall also establish monthly missionary prayer-meetings wherever practical in the societies of his charge. He shall be held to a strict account for the faithful performance of these duties.

13. It shall be the duty of all stationed preachers to visit every family under their care, at least once every quarter, and pay strict attention to the young members of their charge.

14. It shall be the duty of each circuit preacher to visit the families belonging to his charge at least once every six months.

15. It shall be the duty of all preachers; whether local or itinerant, to make use of every laudable effort to enlarge the borders of our Zion, in spreading scriptural holiness, and report to their respective annual conferences the number of new appointments obtained.

SECTION XII.

Preachers' Salaries.

1. The salary of a pastor shall be such amount as may be agreed upon between him and the quarterly conference of the field of labor to which he is sent.

2. It shall be the duty of a circuit or station, when a preacher is sent to it by annual conference, to move said preacher on such circuit or station at its own expense.

3. A missionary employed by the Board of Missions shall receive such salary as in the judgment of the Board may be proper.

4. Preachers sustaining a superannuated relation, and their widows and orphans, shall be provided for by their respective annual conferences, as their wants may require.

SECTION XIII.

Trial of Preachers.

1. *Quarterly-Conference Preachers.*—The quarterly conference shall receive and try all appeals, references, and complaints that may come regularly before it; but no member of quarterly conference can be suspended or expelled from the Church prior to a committee trial. When a quarterly-conference preacher or exhorter is accused of any misdemeanor, the leader or steward shall prosecute the case and shall inquire into the nature of the complaints, and if there be grounds for charges he shall present to the accused a copy of the charges and notify him to choose a committee-man, and the prosecutor shall choose a second committee-man, they two a third, who shall try the case, the preacher in charge being chairman.

If the accused refuse or neglect, or fail, or is unable to choose a committee-man after being properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a first and second person, and these two a third, who shall hear the case and decide. If the accused is found guilty, he shall be silenced: provided, however, either party shall have the right of appeal to the next quarterly conference for a new trial.

2. *Annual-Conference Preachers.*—*Ques.* What shall be done when a preacher, elder, or bishop is reported guilty of immorality, trespass, imprudent conduct, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church?

Ans. The preacher to whom it is known shall take with him another preacher, exhorter, or leader, and examine into the charge; but as the apostle saith (I. Tim. v. 19), "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses." If it should appear that said reports are well founded, they shall be required to prefer charges against the accused. If no one be found willing to prosecute the case, then the next quarterly conference shall appoint a prosecutor, whose duty it shall be to notify the accused, in writing, of all the charges preferred against him. He shall also notify him to choose an elder as his committee-man, the prosecutor choosing an elder also as committee-man in behalf of the Church, and they two a third elder or preacher, before whom the case shall be tried. The prosecutor shall also notify the presiding elder of the district within whose bounds said cause of accusation occurred; and it shall be the duty of the presiding elder to appoint the time and place of trial, giving not less than twenty nor more than forty days' notice to the parties

concerned of said trial; and he shall also act as chairman in the case. Should the committee be satisfied that the accusation is sustained, they shall require him to hold his peace until the annual conference, where he shall be accountable; and it shall be the duty of the committee to transmit in writing the entire proceedings of said trial to the annual conference, where the accused shall have a hearing before the conference or a select committee thereof; and if the findings are sustained he shall be suspended, expelled, or retained, as the conference may determine. But should the accused, after having been duly notified, refuse or neglect to comply in choosing his committee-man within fifteen days, the presiding elder shall suspend him until the annual conference, where, if he shall refuse to appear, he shall be dealt with according to the judgment of the conference; provided, however, if he be an elder, elders only shall vote in the case. If the accused or prosecutor be a presiding elder or a bishop, the presiding elder or bishop, as the case may be, next adjoining, shall act as chairman on the trial; provided, That in conferences having only one presiding elder, the bishop shall appoint a chairman to act in the case.

The foregoing relates only to annual-conference members.

SECTION XIV.

Transfer of Preachers.

A preacher removing from one conference to another shall, when he applies to another for admission, produce a transfer from the conference to which he formerly belonged, signed by the presiding officer, or published in the minutes of the conference from which he has been transferred.

A preacher or elder who receives a transfer is required to present said transfer to another conference, or return it to the conference by which it was issued, within eighteen months after its date. Otherwise the transfer shall be null and void, and the name of the preacher shall be published as no longer connected with the Church as a minister; *provided*, preachers taking transfers to the Pacific coast shall be allowed two years in which to present their transfers.

A preacher or elder receiving a transfer shall be a member of the quarterly conference in whose bounds he may reside, and also be accountable for his moral and official conduct to the annual conference granting said transfer until his transfer be received by the conference to which he has been transferred.

Form of Transfer.

This is to certify that —— is a regular —— or —— in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, of —— annual conference, and is hereby transferred to —— annual conference of said church.

CHAPTER VII.—ITINERACY, ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT.

Ques. Who are the itinerants?

Ans. 1. All who propose themselves without reserve, after having traveled two years under the direction of the stationing committee or presiding elder, and have been received, as such, by a vote of two thirds of the members of conference.

If any one who is received, as above stated, shall cease to travel without giving satisfaction to the conference of which he is a member, he shall not be entitled to any support from the funds belonging to said conference. And, furthermore, he shall not re-enter the itineracy without the consent of at least two thirds of the conference. Yet supernumerary and superannuated relations shall be duly recognized as in accordance with this section, and may be secured to any brother having just claims thereto, by a

vote of conference. Should a traveling preacher or elder desire to leave the work assigned him, he must first acquaint the presiding elder of his intention, by writing; and should any one leave or neglect his station, except it be through sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, he shall be accountable to the next annual conference.

2. The bishop and presiding elders of the past and present years, together with an equal number of local elders or preachers, elected by ballot by the annual conference, shall constitute a stationing committee, whose duty it shall be to supply all the circuits, stations, and missions, as far as practicable, from the above list; *provided*, however; that if any of the preachers thus stationed, or any who may not receive an appointment, are dissatisfied, they shall have a right to appeal to the annual conference, if two thirds grant the appeal,* the decision of which shall be final; and the report of said stationing committee shall be read at least six hours before the adjournment of conference.

*NOTE.—In case of an appeal from the decision of the stationing committee, no preacher stationed by said committee shall be changed, without his consent, to accommodate the preacher asking such appeal.

3. Should there not be enough itinerants to fill all the circuits, stations, and missions, such vacancies shall be supplied by the stationing committee or presiding elders.

Ques. 2. What shall be done to regulate the annual conferences in the division of circuits or stations?

Ans. A circuit or station shall not consist of any specific number of members or appointments; but when the annual conference thinks it able to support a minister, it may be recognized as such.

CHAPTER VIII.—APPEALS.

SECTION I.

From the Decision of a Class.

Should any member be dissatisfied with the decision of a church or class, or committee of a church or class, an appeal may be had to the next quarterly conference ensuing by giving notice thereof to the preacher in charge, or the secretary of the trial, within thirty days after said trial, together with his reasons for such appeal; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish the quarterly conference with a certified copy of the proceedings of the trial and of the notice of the appeal.

SECTION II.

From the Decision of a Quarterly Conference.

Any exhorter or preacher dissatisfied with the decision of a quarterly conference may appeal to the ensuing annual conference within thirty days after the quarterly conference, notify the secretary, in writing, of his intention to appeal, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish a certified copy of the proceedings, the notification, and reasons assigned, to the annual conference.

SECTION III.

From the Decision of Annual Conferences.

Any member of an annual conference who may be dissatisfied with the decision of his conference shall, within thirty days after the session of the annual conference, notify the secretary of said conference of his intention to appeal to the General Conference, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish the General Conference with a certified copy of the notice, and reasons therefor, and of the proceedings of the annual conference in the case.

CHAPTER IX.—DUTIES IN GENERAL.

SECTION I.

Necessity of Union Among Ourselves.

Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and of the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we are divided we shall injure ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

What can be done in order to a closer union with each other?

1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

2. Pray earnestly for and speak truly and freely to each other.

3. When we meet, let us never part without prayer, when practicable.

4. Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

5. Never speak lightly of each other.

6. Let us defend each other's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth.

7. Labor in honor, each preferring another before himself.

8. We recommend a serious examination of the causes, evils, and cures of heart and church divisions.

SECTION II.

Visiting from House to House and Enforcing Practical Religion.

Ques. How can we further assist those under our care?

Ans. By instructing them at their own houses, which is necessary to promote confidence and communion with God among us, to wean us from the love of the world, and to inure us to a life of heavenly-mindedness; also, to encourage us to strive after and practice brotherly love, that no evil thinking or judging of one another be found among us; and lastly, that we may learn to do as we would wish to be done by.

2. Every preacher should make it his duty to instruct the people on every occasion, both public and private, and exhort them to be diligent in all good works and doctrine. Until this be done, and that in sincerity, we shall, upon the whole, be of but little use, and our good shall be evil spoken of; therefore, wherever we may be, we should guard against useless and idle conversation.

Undoubtedly this private application of visiting from house to house, and exhorting the people, is found or implied in these solemn words of the apostle

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." (II. Tim. iv. 1, 2.)

SECTION III.

Singing.

We believe it to be the duty of all the people of God to sing his praises, and to sing them in the great congregation as well as in the private circle. We therefore earnestly recommend to all our people the cultivation of vocal music, so that the singing in our congregations may be improved. As a help to this end, we advise all our people to provide themselves with hymn-books for use in times of public and social worship.

We would counsel our societies to avoid the introduction of choirs and instrumental music into their worship.

CHAPTER X.—MORAL REFORM.

SECTION I

Temperance.

The distilling, vending, and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage shall be and is hereby

forbidden throughout our church, as is also the renting and leasing of property to be used for the manufacturing or selling of such beverages; also the signing of petitions for license or the entering as bondsmen for persons engaged in the traffic of intoxicating drinks; and should any of our members or preachers be found guilty in this respect, they shall be dealt with as in the case of other immoralities; *provided*, however, that this rule shall not be so construed as to prevent druggists and others from vending or using it for medicinal or mechanical purposes.

SECTION II.

Slavery.

All slavery, in every sense of the word, is totally prohibited, and shall in no way be tolerated in our church. Should any be found in our society who hold slaves, they can not continue as members unless they do personally manumit or set free such slaves.

And when it is known to any of our ministers in charge of a circuit, station, or mission, that any of its members hold a slave or slaves, he shall admonish such members to manumit such slave or slaves; and if such persons do not take measures to carry out the Discipline, they shall be expelled by the proper authorities of the

Church; and any minister refusing to attend to the duties above described, shall be dealt with by the authorities to which he is amenable.*

SECTION III.

Secret Societies.

We believe that secret societies are evil in their nature and tendency; that they employ solemn oaths and obligations for evil and unworthy ends; that they bind men together in brotherhood with wicked and unholy persons, and bring them into fellowship not consistent with the teachings of our Lord and his apostles; that they tend to produce jealousies and alienations in the church of God; that they employ the forms of religion in unwarranted services and ceremonies, not in the name of Christ nor founded on the merits of his atonement; that they enjoin under oaths and solemn obligations obedience to laws and regulations unknown to the civil government within which they are organized, or to any government divinely ordained; that they pervert the Holy Scriptures to foolish and unholy uses; that their ceremonies encour-

*NOTE:—This law, in its essential prohibitory features, was adopted by the General Conference in 1821, Bishop Newcomer presiding. It was amended to its present form in 1826.

age many of their adherents in hopes of eternal life without a truly evangelical faith ; that they are contrary to that openness of conduct and guilelessness of character enjoined by the word of God, and that Christians should not be connected with them, for the apostle expressly says : “ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers ; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness ? and what communion hath light with darkness ? and what concord hath Christ with Belial ? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel ? ” “ Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty.”

1. Any member or preacher who shall connect himself with a secret society shall be regarded as having thereby declared that he prefers such society to the fellowship of our church, and shall be considered as having withdrawn from the Church.

2. No person shall be permitted to join our church while holding membership in a secret society.

3. If any member or preacher, at the time of the passage of this rule, be connected with a

secret society, and does not discontinue such connection within six months thereafter, his failure to do so shall be regarded as a refusal to comply with the condition of membership as found in our Constitution (Article II., Section 7,) and his severance from the Church shall be entered on the church-records.

4. If any member or preacher connected with a secret society shall deny or conceal such connection, he shall be tried in the manner as set forth in the sections of our Discipline relating to the trial of members, and trial of preachers, to determine the facts in the case.

5. In cases of withdrawal from the Church as recognized and set forth in this rule, the preacher in charge shall announce the facts to the class, and see that the records of the Church correspond with the facts. If the person be a member of the quarterly or annual conference, the conference to which he belongs shall see that a record of the fact and manner of withdrawal is made upon its journal.

6. It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct our people upon the evils of secret societies, and to endeavor to prevent them from being ensnared in such evils, and, so far as possible, to reclaim all who may have joined any secret order.

7. *Provided*, That in case a member has been

deceived and thereby drawn into any of those societies commonly called minor orders, he may be borne with for a reasonable time, if there be reason to believe that he may be reclaimed ; but the time shall not extend beyond twelve months in any case.

SECTION IV.

Oaths.

We believe that the mode of testifying to the truth when required so to do in a legal form, by way of affirmation, is on us solemnly, conscientiously, and fully binding, before God, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

SECTION V.

War.

We most positively record our disapproval of engaging in voluntary, national, aggressive warfare ; yet we recognize the rightful authority of the civil government, and hold it responsible for the preservation and defense of our national compact, against treason, or invasion by any belligerent force ; and we believe it to be entirely consistent with the spirit of Christianity to bear arms when called upon to do so by the properly constituted authorities of our government for its preservation and defense.

CHAPTER XI.—DOCTRINAL PUBLICATIONS.

1. The editor of the *Religious Telescope* and the editor of the Sabbath-school literature and the editor of the German periodicals and the editor of the *Missionary Visitor* and the publishing agent shall constitute a Book Committee, without whose sanction no book shall be published in the name of the Church or publishing house during the intervals of the General Conference.

2. No one of our preachers or laymen shall become the author of any doctrinal book or pamphlet, in a printed form, in the name of the Church, without the approbation of the annual conference, or of a committee chosen by the same. And if any preacher or layman violates this rule, he shall be accountable to the class, or the quarterly or annual conference, as the case may be.

CHAPTER XII.—FORMULAS.

SECTION I.

Marriage Ceremony.

We are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together N. and M. as husband and wife. If any

person present knows any just cause or impediment why these persons should not be joined in marriage, let the same now speak or forever after keep silent.

[If no impediment be alleged, then shall the minister say unto the man:]

“N., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God’s ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and comfort her, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her so long as ye both shall live? If so, then answer, ‘I will.’”

[Then shall the minister say to the woman:]

“M., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God’s ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and obey him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live? If so, then answer, ‘I will.’”

[Then the minister shall require them to join their right hands, and say:]

“Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

“Inasmuch as N. and M. have consented together in marriage, and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses, I pro-

nounce them husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

Ques. Who of our ministers are permitted to solemnize marriage?

Ans. All ordained ministers, and also those that have obtained license from an annual conference, where the law of the state makes it the privilege of every regularly licensed minister to solemnize marriage; but none are permitted to solemnize marriage with quarterly-conference license.

SECTION II.

Burial of the Dead.

After the coffin is lowered into the grave, the minister, if the deceased is a child or an adult Christian, shall repeat the following:

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."

"In the midst of life we are in death; unto whom should we seek for succor but unto thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased." Our hope is in thy Son Jesus Christ, who hath said, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he

that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." " For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

" And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors ; and their works do follow them."

" There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain : for the former things are passed away."

Inasmuch as God in his wise providence has called out of time into eternity the soul of our (brother, sister, or child,) we commit his (or her) remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the confident hope of the general resurrection through the 'Lord Jesus Christ, at his coming and glory ; that this corruptible body shall be raised up and be fashioned like unto the glorious body of Christ, be reunited with the soul and be received into everlasting habitations." Amen.

BENEDICTION.

CHAPTER XIII.—CHARTERS.

Whereas, the laws of certain states require churches and institutions to be incorporated, in order to be recognized by law :

Therefore, in such cases, the quarterly conference of the respective circuits, stations, and missions shall appoint a competent committee, who shall apply to the proper source for an act of incorporation on all the church-property within the bounds of such circuits, stations, or missions; and at the last quarterly conference of each year the presiding elder shall examine said committee in reference to the above subject.

2. When legacies are bequeathed to the Church, the names of the presiding bishops should be inserted in the will of the testator, to be under the control of said bishops and their successors in office, to be appropriated to the purpose specified by the donors.

CHAPTER XIV.—SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

SECTION I.

Duty to Children and Sabbath-Schools.

Ques. What shall be done to benefit the rising generation?

Ans. Let him who is in any way zealous for God and the souls of men begin the work imme-

diately. Wherever children are found, speak freely to them, and instruct diligently; exhort them to be good, and pray with them earnestly, simply and plainly, that they may learn to know their Creator and Redeemer in the days of their youth.

It shall be the duty of all our members to encourage our Sabbath-schools by their presence when practicable, and always to lend them their aid and influence.

SECTION II.

General Sabbath-School Board—Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This shall be called the General Sabbath-school Board of the United Brethren in Christ.

ARTICLE II.

Object.

The object of this Board shall be to promote the cause of Sabbath-schools in connection with our church and elsewhere, and thus, by our united efforts, to promote the glory of God and the happiness and salvation of mankind.

ARTICLE III.

Members.

The members of this Board shall be a president, secretary, treasurer, and three, directors, who shall be elected every four years by the General Conference.

ARTICLE IV.

Duties.

President.—The president shall have the general operations of the Board under his care. He shall call meetings of the Board when necessary, present the wants of the Board; and he shall sign all orders drawn on the treasurer for the use of the Board, as appropriated by it.

Secretary.—The secretary shall keep a record of all the business transactions of the Board, conduct its correspondence, report to it annually or oftener if desired, and make such reports for it to the General Conference as may be required, and if practicable, at the request of the Board, devote his whole time to its interests.

Treasurer.—The treasurer shall take charge of and hold in trust all the funds and papers of value belonging to the Board, subject to its direction and the written order of the president.

ARTICLE V.

Meetings, Powers, Duties.

Meetings of the Board shall be held annually, or oftener if need be, at the call of the president, to provide ways and means for the successful operation of its plans. It shall appropriate money to defray all necessary expenses, and shall have power to fill vacancies in its numbers, and to employ any suitable person or persons to perform needed services for the advancement of its objects under its direction. It shall also, through its secretary, make quadrennial reports to the General Conference.¹

ARTICLE VI.

Appropriations.

The funds of the Board shall be used as follows :

1. To assist in organizing and sustaining Sabbath-schools in such localities and manner as may be advisable.

2. To conduct the business and carry forward the work of the Board.

3. When aid is needed those making the application shall first organize a United Brethren Sabbath-school by electing officers and adopting the disciplinary regulations of the Church, and

shall report the fact to the secretary, as well as the kind and amount of help needed; and upon a favorable consideration of the application, such supplies as may be considered necessary and advisable shall be furnished. Such donation shall, however, be discontinued unless a church-organization shall be effected after a reasonable time.

SECTION III.

Annual-Conference Relations and Duties.

Each annual conference shall, at some suitable time in its annual session, hold a Sabbath-school anniversary-meeting, for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Board. It shall be the duty of all our preachers, whether local or traveling, to exert their influence in favor of the work of this Board, and assist in organizing and sustaining United Brethren Sabbath-schools in our houses and places of worship; and those in charge of works shall preach on the subject of Sabbath-schools at least once a year at each appointment and report the following items to the annual conference: First, the number of United Brethren Sabbath-schools; second, the number of officers and teachers employed; third, the number of scholars enrolled; fourth, the number of accessions to the Church from the Sab-

bath-school; fifth, the number of schools continuing twelve months each year; sixth, the amount of money collected (1) for the use of schools, (2) for the general fund, and (3) for the missionary society.

SECTION IV.

Organization of Sabbath-Schools.

In order to insure unity in administration and soundness of teaching, all our Sabbath-schools shall, as far as possible, conform to the following

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

1. Any preacher or member of this church may organize a United Brethren Sabbath-school by calling a meeting of the members of the Church, together with other friends of Sabbath-schools, in any community where practicable, and organize by enrolling all who will agree to unite in such organizations, and proceed to elect by ballot or otherwise a superintendent and other necessary officers; provided, however, that none be allowed to vote who are under twelve years of age.

2. The superintendent and other general officers of the school shall hold their respective office one year, or until their successors are chosen

3. The superintendent shall render to each quarterly conference an account of the condition of his school, stating also whether he is prompt in opening and orderly in his management of the same, and at the close of his term he shall see that a successor is selected after the manner described; provided, that on stations where it shall be thought best by the pastor the quarterly conference may elect.

4. The quarterly conference shall have power to dismiss a superintendent for moral or other delinquency, or for heresy, and supply the vacancy.

5. Teachers should be chosen and appointed by the superintendent, with the advice and consent of the preacher in charge, and should be distinguished for piety and aptness to teach, and should be continued as long as they are useful.

SECTION V.

Relation of Sabbath-Schools to the Missionary Work.

Each of our Sabbath-schools is hereby constituted an auxiliary to the branch missionary society within whose limits it is located, and the superintendent, secretary, and treasurer of the Sabbath-school shall be president, secretary, and treasurer of the said auxiliary, and shall report

annually, through the preacher in charge, to the branch society. Said preacher is to notify the above-named officers, at the close of each conference year, that such report is due, and, if need be, assist in its preparation. And it shall be the duty of every auxiliary society to hold a quarterly missionary meeting and take up missionary collections. Each class shall be furnished with a blank book, ruled with columns for monthly missionary collections, in which the names of all members shall be entered, with the request that each member give monthly or quarterly at the rate of one cent a week or more, and be credited in said book by their teacher, with what they pay, to be reported at the quarterly missionary meeting by the treasurer—these books to be furnished gratis to all our Sabbath-schools by the officers of the Missionary Society at Dayton, Ohio. Any member may become a life member of the auxiliary by the payment of three dollars, and shall be entitled to a certificate of life membership.

SECTION VI.

Form of Constitution of a Sabbath-School.

The following is recommended as a suitable form for the constitution of a United Brethren Sabbath-school :

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This Sabbath-school shall be known as the
[here insert name].....
 of.....[here insert place].....

ARTICLE II.

Object.

Its object shall be to gather in all, both young
 and old, as far as possible, to study and teach the
 Bible.

ARTICLE III.

Officers.

The officers shall be a superintendent, a secretary, a treasurer, a librarian, and a chorister, all of whom shall be chosen in a manner prescribed in the book of Discipline, and shall hold their offices one year, or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE IV.

Duties of Officers

The duties of the officers shall be such as are usual in similar offices.

ARTICLE V.

Teachers.

A suitable number of teachers shall be ap-

pointed by the superintendent, advised and assisted by the preacher in charge (if practicable), unless he prefers to delegate that power to the school. Teachers so appointed shall continue in office without limit as to time.

ARTICLE VI.

Meetings.

The times, places, and conduct of weekly meetings for devotion and instruction, of monthly, quarterly, or annual meetings for concert, review, report, or election, shall be under the control of the superintendent, supported by the school.

ARTICLE VII.

Amendments.

This constitution may be amended by any regular meeting of the school by a two-thirds vote of the members of the school of voting age present, provided that notice of the proposed change has been given at a previous meeting.

CHAPTER XV.—CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

I. This society shall be called the "*Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society* of the

United Brethren in Christ," and is organized for the purpose of aiding the annual conferences in extending their missionary labors throughout the country, and into foreign and heathen lands.

II. The payment of ten dollars at one time shall constitute a life member, or fifty dollars at one time a life director. No certificate of life membership or life directorship shall be granted until the full amount is paid.

III. The officers of this society shall consist of a president, four vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, and seven directors, who, together, shall constitute a board of directors, and shall be elected every four years by the General Conference.

IV. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board, and shall have power, in conjunction with the secretary, to call special meetings. In the absence of the president, one of the vice-presidents shall fill his place.

V. The secretary shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the society, conduct its correspondence, and devote himself exclusively to the interests of the society. He shall keep a record of all the life members, life directors, legacies, etc., etc. He shall also make out and publish, under the direction of the Board, an annual report of the whole missionary work;

also ■ quadrennial report to the General Conference. His salary shall be determined by the Board, and reported to the ensuing General Conference.

VI. The treasurer shall hold the funds of the society, subject to the order of the Board, and, at the discretion of the Board, devote himself exclusively to the interests of the Missionary Society.

VII. The Board of Directors shall hold annual meetings; have power to appoint an executive committee, consisting of five members; make by-laws to regulate its own business; appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; employ missionaries and agents; open new missions; make appropriations to mission-conferences; employ laborers for mission-districts; dissolve mission-conferences; fill vacancies in its own body; in connection with the bishops or any one of them, ordain ministers to the office of elder; and publish, at our own press, such matter as the cause may from time to time demand.

VIII. A mission-district shall consist of two or more fields of labor, outside the bounds of an annual conference. Its annual sessions shall be presided over by a bishop, or an elder appointed by the Board of Missions. At these annual meetings the boundaries of fields of labor shall

be fixed, the character of members examined, preachers may be received, examined and passed on course of reading, and be ordained. A presiding elder may be elected, if the Board of Missions so advise, and ministers appointed to fill the fields of labor by the presiding officer and the presiding elder

IX. Each missionary in the employ of the Board shall report quarterly to the secretary the condition of his mission; and no missionary shall be entitled to his salary who shall neglect to comply with this requirement, or leave his work without the consent of the Executive Committee or the Board of Missions, or his presiding elder. The presiding elders of mission-conferences shall report quarterly the condition of their respective works.

X. Each conference shall be considered a branch of this society, and shall elect a treasurer and secretary. 1. The branch treasurer shall hold the funds designed for the Board, subject to its order. 2. The branch secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the annual conference in relation to home, frontier, and foreign missions, separately, and report the same *immediately* after the session of the conference to the secretary of the Board.

He shall report the number of missions, ap-

pointments, meeting-houses, members at the beginning of the year, members received, and members remaining; Sabbath-schools, scholars, and teachers; what paid on missions' as salary; what collected for missions on missions; what collected for missions in the whole conference; how much paid the parent Board, and how much paid to home missions; and the names and *post-office* addresses of life directors and life members.

The branch secretaries shall be responsible to their respective annual conferences for the faithful discharge of their duties.

XI. The branch societies, or individual members, may specify to what particular portion of the work their funds shall be applied; provided, however, that if more is thus designated than is necessary for the work specified, it may be applied to some other work, as the Board shall determine.

XII. Each branch society shall have the exclusive management of the home missions within its own limits; provided, however, that the missionary Board shall be permitted to open and operate missions within the bounds of any annual conference, jointly or independently, by the consent of such conference.

XIII. Treasurers of the parent Board and of the branch society shall give approved security.

XIV. All bequests or donations, the interest of which is to go to missionary purposes, made to any of the above societies, shall be kept sacred.

Form of Bequest.

I give and bequeath to the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ, organized by the General Conference of said Church, May 20, 1853, and incorporated in Butler County, Ohio, September 23, 1854, the sum of —— dollars; and the receipt of the treasurer of the society shall be a sufficient discharge thereof to my executors and administrators.

CHAPTER XVI.—WOMAN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

1. The name by which this corporation shall be known is, "The Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ," and the said organization is not for profit.

2. The principal business of the said corporation is to be transacted in the City of Dayton, County of Montgomery, State of Ohio.

3. Said corporation is formed for the purpose of engaging, and uniting the efforts of women,

in sending missionaries into the foreign and domestic fields of the United Brethren Church, and supporting said missionaries and other laborers in said mission fields, and of securing by gift, bequest, and otherwise the funds necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

4. Said corporation is not to have capital stock.

BY-LAWS.

BY-LAW I.

Membership.

The payment of \$1 annually shall constitute membership in the association, and payment of \$10 at one time life membership. The payment of \$25 at one time shall constitute the donor a life director. By the installment plan the payment of \$2 annually for five years constitutes life membership, or \$5 annually for five years a life directorship. A certificate is given at the time of payment in full.

BY-LAW II.

Organization.

The organization of this society shall consist of a board of managers, nine trustees, and branch and local associations to be organized under the Constitution hereto attached.

BY-LAW III.

Board of Managers.

The Board of managers shall consist of three delegates from each branch association, who shall be elected at the branch annual meeting, held within three months of the annual meeting of the Board. Said Board shall meet in the First United Brethren Church of Dayton, Ohio, at the time of the meeting of the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society, in May, 1876, and annually thereafter, at such time and place as they may from time to time designate.

The duties of said Board shall be advisory to trustees. Life directors of the association shall be regarded as advisory members of the Board of Managers.

BY-LAW IV.

*Duties of the Board of Trustees.**

The Board of Trustees shall have power to select locations for missions, appoint missionaries, appropriate the funds of the association as the interest of the cause may demand, and attend to the administration and general management of the affairs of the association.

*Trustees to be elected by members of the association, who shall vote either in person or by proxy, the first Thursday in June, in the City of Dayton. The officers shall be elected by the trustees.

BY-LAW V.

Relation of the Society to the Church.

This society shall work in harmony with the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ, and under the direction of the General Conference of said church; and its missionaries shall be subject to the same rules that govern the missionaries of the aforesaid Missionary Society

BY-LAW VI.

Funds.

All funds coming into the hands of the treasurer of the association will be held subject to the order of the Board of Trustees; and no funds shall be disbursed by the treasurer except upon the orders of said Board, duly signed by the secretary.

BY-LAW VII.

Branch Societies.

One branch society may be formed within the bounds of any annual conference of the United Brethren Church, by the adoption of the branch constitution.

BY-LAW VIII.

These by-laws may be altered or amended at

any annual meeting of the Board of Managers by a vote of two thirds of the members present.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ, for..... Dollars

BRANCH CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This society shall be called the —— Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this society is to aid the association to awaken an interest among women in behalf of Christian missions, and to raise funds for their support.

ARTICLE III.

The membership of this society shall consist of the members of the association within the limits of this conference district.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, who, together, shall constitute

an executive committee to supervise the entire work of the association within the conference district. It shall be their duty to make earnest efforts to secure the organization of local societies in all the United Brethren congregations within the bounds of the conference.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the secretary of this society to keep a correct record of its proceedings and the proceedings of the executive committee, and transmit a report of the same, with the number of members, to the recording secretary of the Board of Managers at least ten days before the annual meeting of the Board.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and hold the funds of the society, and transmit the same semi-annually to the treasurer of the board, the last report to be sent in at least ten days before the meeting of the Board of managers.

ARTICLE V.

Each branch society shall hold annual meetings to elect its officers and members of the Boards of Managers, and to transact any business pertaining to its work, its members to consist of the officers and three delegates from each local society.

ARTICLE VI.

Each branch society shall provide for the expenses of its delegates to the annual meeting of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE VII.

Life members within the bounds of the conference shall be regarded advisory members of the annual meeting of the branch society.

LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Local societies may be organized by securing names of persons desiring to become members in any United Brethren congregation, and proceeding to the election of officers.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and two or more collectors.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. The duties of the president shall be those usual to the office.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to assume the duties of president in her absence.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary to

keep a record of the proceedings of each meeting, with the names of members, and report quarterly to the secretary of the branch society.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to hold all funds of the society and transmit the same semi-annually to the treasurer of the branch society.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duties of the collectors to visit members of the Church and solicit names, collect quarterly dues, and report the number of visits and amount collected at each meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

Any child may become a member of a local society upon such terms as said society shall designate.

ARTICLE V

All local societies shall meet quarterly, and shall arrange their year with reference to the annual meeting of the branch society.

CHAPTER XVII.—CHURCH-ERECTION SOCIETY.

I. This society shall be known as *The Church-Erection Society of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, and is organized for the purpose of aiding feeble churches in the erection of houses of worship.

II. The Board of Missions shall constitute the Board of Managers of this society, and shall be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the Missionary Society so far as they are applicable to this society.

III. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to make a reasonable assessment to their various fields of labor for this interest, which funds when collected shall be transmitted to the treasurer.

IV. The treasurer of the parent Board of Missions shall receipt for all moneys sent him by the various conference treasurers, that they may make settlement with their respective annual conferences.

V. Application for aid from this society must be made to the Board of Managers, through the bishop and the presiding elder of the district and the preacher in charge of the circuit, station, or mission where such house is to be erected, who shall state in writing the condition of the society desiring such aid, the prospects of success, and the security of the investment.

VI. Should any society thus aided lose its organization, so as to make the sale of such house necessary, then, out of the proceeds of such sale, the amount loaned them, with interest, shall be refunded to the Church-Erection Board.

VII. The Board shall make no appropriations where there is reasonable prospect that the society asking aid can succeed without it.; or where there is no prospect of building up a good society.

VII. All aid rendered shall be only as a loan, the principal to be refunded, without interest, at such times as the Board may direct, but in no case for a longer term than three years at any one time, or more than five hundred dollars to any individual or single church; nor shall moneys be loaned to any society until their church-property is secured by deed as provided for in Discipline; nor shall moneys be loaned to churches until their trustees have forwarded an abstract of the title of their property and their notes, secured by first mortgage on the premises and properly recorded in the records of the courts for the inspection of the Board of Managers or Executive Committee.

The trustees of churches which receive moneys from the Church-Erection Society shall be required to secure from loss by fire said church-buildings in some reliable insurance company.

IX. The Board of Managers may employ one or more special agents; provided, however, that said agency shall not be continued for a longer term than three months, unless it be apparent

that said agency is a moneyed success to the society.

CHAPTER XVIII.—PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

Rule 1. The above establishment shall be called "The Printing Establishment of the United Brethren in Christ."

Rule 2. The legislative authority herein granted shall be vested in the General Conference of said church, whose duty it shall be to elect the necessary officers not otherwise provided for, and make or amend any rules as in their judgment may seem expedient.

Rule 3. The proceeds of said establishment, over and above contingent expenses, shall be applied to the benefit of traveling and worn-out preachers, and their widows and orphans. The distribution of any available profits of the publishing house for this purpose shall be in proportion to the number of regular ministers in each annual conference who are *itinerants*, according to the "Itinerant Plan" of the Discipline. It shall be the duty of the secretaries of the annual conferences each year to report to the publishing agent at Dayton, Ohio, the true number of such *itinerants* as found upon the records of the sev-

eral conferences ; also the name and address of the conference treasurer appointed to receive the dividend awarded to his conference.

Rule 4. A board of seven trustees, elected by the General Conference, shall take the oversight of the establishment.

Rule 5. The officers of the establishment shall consist of seven trustees, one agent, and such number of editors as the General Conference shall deem necessary.

Rule 6. It shall be the duty of the trustees to fix the salaries of agent and editors, to make settlement with the officers of the establishment every six months, and see that they properly discharge their duties, and, if found derelict, may suspend them from office until the General Conference ; provided, no such officers shall be suspended until they have been furnished with a copy of the complaints in writing, and have had an opportunity of defense before the Board of Trustees. They shall also have the privilege of making any by-laws which may seem expedient for the better regulation of the minor concerns of the office ; provided, they do not violate any part of the foregoing rules.

Rule 7. It shall be the duty of the agent to take charge of the temporal concerns of the office, furnish such material as may be needed,

and to act as the general book-agent under the direction of the Board of Trustees. He shall prepare and publish a report annually, through the *Religious Telescope* and *Joyful Messenger*, and shall also make a report to the General Conference. It shall be his duty to make arrangements for *verbatim* reports of the proceedings of the General Conference for publication.

Rule 8. Should a vacancy occur in any of the offices of the establishment, or in the Board of Trustees, the trustees may fill said vacancy, until the sitting of the next General Conference.

Rule 9. No editor or officer employed in the establishment shall accept any office or engage in any business which will interfere with the duties of his office.

CHAPTER XIX.—COURSE OF READING AND STUDY.

SECTION I.

For licentiate preachers, upon which they are to be examined by the annual conference to which they belong. They shall be examined, also, each year of their probation, on the doctrine and government of the Church, as taught in our book of Discipline. It is presumed that

■ fair knowledge of the ordinary branches of an English or German education has been acquired before entering upon this course. If the licentiate does not possess such knowledge, he shall be examined, in each year, on grammar and geography.

FIRST YEAR—BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Human Depravity ; The Atonement ; Redemption ; Repentance ; Justification by Faith ; Regeneration ; Adoption ; Witness of the Spirit ; Christian Perfection ; Possibility of Final Apostasy ; Existence and Attributes of God.

Books Required.—Bible ; Watson's Institutes ; Broadus' Homiletics ; Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation ; Harris' Great Commission ; Fletcher's Appeal ; History of the United Brethren in Christ ; an essay on written sermon.

Books Recommended.—Bridges' Christian Ministry ; Upham's Life of Faith ; Whateley's Rhetoric ; Shedd's Christian Doctrine ; Thwing's Drill-Book of Vocal Culture ; Barrow's Sacred Geography and Antiquities ; Christlieb's Protestant Foreign Missions.

SECOND YEAR—BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Trinity ; Divinity and Humanity of Christ ; Personality and Deity of the Holy Ghost ; Doctrines Relating to Man.

Books Required.—Bible; Watson's Institutes, continued; Shedd's Homiletics; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church to chapter sixteen; Hopkins' Law of Love; Haven's Mental Philosophy; Alexander's Evidences of Christianity; written sermon.

Books Recommended.—Upham's Interior Life; Neander's Planting and training of the Christian Church (Robinson's Translation); Jahn's Archæology; Weber's Universal History; Shedd's Christian Doctrine; Kurtz' Church History; Schaff's Apostolic Church.

THIRD YEAR—BIBLE DOCTRINES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Immortality of the Soul; Resurrection of the Body; Future General Judgment; Eternal Rewards and Punishments; The Christian Sabbath; The Lord's-supper; Christian Baptism.

Books Required.—Bible; Watson's Institutes; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church, continued and close; Smith's Old-Testament History; Smith's New-Testament History; Coleman's Geographical History of the Bible; Butler's Analogy; Companion to the Bible—Barrows; Whateley's Logic; written sermon.

Books Recommended.—Vinet's Homiletics; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews; Hackett's Illus-

trations of Scripture; Upham's Divine Union; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church; Hopkin's Law of Love; Haven's Mental Philosophy; Alexander's Evidences of Christianity; written sermon.

GERMAN COURSE OF READING.

First Year.--Bible; Discipline; History of United Brethren Church; Kurtz' Church History, first part; Sulzberger's Dogmatic, first part; History of the World, by Colver Society; Clark's Hand-Book; Fletcher's Appeal; Nelson on Infidelity; Hare on Justification; Nippart's Practical Theology; Heyse's German Grammar; written sermon on justification.

Second Year.--Bible; United Brethren Church History; Discipline and Heyse's Grammar continued; Kurtz' Church History, second part; Sulzberger's Dogmatic, second part; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Zeller on the Soul; Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation; Luthardt's Apologetische Vorträge; written Sermon on the Christian Sabbath.

Third Year.--Bible; Sulzberger's Dogmatic, third part; Osterzee's Theology of the New Testament; Luthardt's Ethics; Lisco's Apostolic Creed; Nast on the God-Man Christ; Pearson's Infidelity; written sermon on baptism.

Any licentiate who fails to read the books re-

quired, and to submit to the examination, shall, at the close of the third year of his probation at furthest, have his name erased from the annual-conference record, unless a reasonable excuse can be given for such failure, in which case he shall be referred back to and have standing in the quarterly conference as a licensed preacher ; *provided*, if in the judgment of the conference they see fit, the conference may relieve graduates of Union Biblical Seminary from examination on the above course.

CHAPTER XX.—MEETING-HOUSES AND PARSONAGES.

Ques. Is anything advisable in regard to the building of meeting-houses ?

Ans. Let all our meeting-houses be built plain and neat, with free seats, and not more expensive than necessary.

Ques. To whom are our meeting-houses, and the premises belonging to them, to be deeded ?

Ans. To a board of trustees, who shall in all cases have warranty deeds legally executed and made to them and their successors in office, in trust for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, who shall have the same recorded in the county records where the property is situated.

Ques. How is the board of trustees to be constituted?

Ans. Whenever it is contemplated by a society to purchase or build a meeting-house, it shall be the duty of a leader or steward of such society to make it known to the quarterly conference of the circuit or station to which he belongs, whose duty it shall be to appoint a judicious board of trustees, where the law of the state does not otherwise provide, of not less than three in number, or as the law of the state in which said house is to be built may direct; provided, however, that at least a majority of such board of trustees shall be members of our church. The trustees shall hold their office during the pleasure of the quarterly conference.

Ques. How are the trustees to proceed in building a house?

Ans. No society shall commence the building of any meeting-house without first getting an act of incorporation, where the law of the state requires it. They shall form an estimate of the amount necessary to procure a lot, to build, and to make such other improvements as may be considered necessary. And they shall at no time proceed with the building of a house of worship, beyond the means, either in hand or sufficiently secured, so as to avoid involving our houses of worship in any way in debt.

The trustees shall hold annual meetings, or oftener if need be, and shall elect from their number the following officers; namely, a president, secretary, and treasurer. The meetings of the board shall be subject to the call of the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a correct record of all the business transactions of the board, in a book provided for that purpose, which shall at all times be open for inspection by the quarterly conference of the charge having the care of the property. The treasurer shall receive all funds for meeting-house, cemetery, and parsonage purposes, and pay out the same under the direction of the board, and report to the board the financial condition at their several meetings.

The board shall make an annual report to the quarterly conference.

Ques. What shall be done when a vacancy or vacancies occur in the board of trustees?

Ans. It shall be the duty of the quarterly conference to appoint a suitable person or persons to fill such vacancies.

Ques. What shall be done when any of our houses are vacant?

Ans. It shall be the duty of the quarterly conference of the nearest circuit or station to appoint not less than three suitable persons for

trustees, who shall have the power, when authorized by two thirds of the members of that conference, to lease, rent, or sell such meeting-house, and the appurtenances belonging to it, and to appropriate the money arising from such lease, rent, or sale, by the direction of said conference, toward the erection of new meeting-houses, or the liquidation of debts on old ones.

- If the vacated house be a parsonage, the proceeds shall be disposed of in like manner; but in every case the proceeds arising from the lease, rent, or sale of parsonage property shall be kept ~~safe~~ sacred for parsonage purposes. When a lot is deeded to an English United Brethren society, or to a German United Brethren society, and one or the other cease to exist in an organized form by deaths, removals, expulsions, or otherwise, the remaining organized class shall have full right to make such improvements or repairs on said lot, as may be needed for worship, and a peaceable possession.

The above rules to be observed in purchasing or building parsonage-houses.

It shall be the duty of our presiding elders, as soon as convenient, to appoint, or see that three or five suitable persons are appointed, with the consent of the quarterly conference, to take up subscriptions to build or purchase parsonage-houses for their respective stations or circuits,

the same to be deeded to those three or five trustees, and their successors in office, for the use of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. We recommend that all our parsonage-houses be plain, and located in some central place.

• In cases where fields of labor are divided having parsonages upon them the disposition of said parsonages shall be submitted to a board of arbiters, consisting of three members of the Church, one to be chosen by each quarterly conference, and these two a third, to whom the whole matter shall be referred, their decision of the case being final. In cases where more than two quarterly conferences are interested, the same plan shall be pursued.

CHAPTER XXI.—BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. There shall be a general board of education, known by the name of "The Board of Education," under the care of the General Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

II. This board shall consist of twelve members, elected by the General Conference so distributed as to have at least two members in each bishop's district, except the Pacific, which shall have one, who shall hold office for four years, six of whom shall be clergymen; the remainder

may be lay members of the United Brethren Church. *Five* members, including the president or vice-president, shall constitute a quorum.

III. The officers shall be a president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. These shall be elected by the members of the board at their first regular meeting after the sitting of General Conference, and shall hold office until the next regular session of the General Conference.

The board may appoint any competent persons, members of the United Brethren Church, to be their treasurer and corresponding secretary; these, if elected outside of the board, shall be advisory members of the board.

In case of vacancy occurring in the board, by death or otherwise, the board shall have power to fill the vacancy, the election to be by ballot, and the person elected to hold office until the next meeting of General Conference.

There shall be at least one session of the board each year. Meetings of the board shall be called by the president, upon request of three members.

IV. The object of this board shall be—1. To raise funds by collection, donation, bequest, or otherwise, to aid by loan, without interest, as the executive committee may determine, in educa-

ting, both in their collegiate and theological course, pious young persons who are preparing themselves for the work of the gospel ministry, or as missionaries, in the United Brethren Church; provided, however, the board shall have power to receive money and use it for other educational purposes as donors may direct.

2. To seek by the publication of tracts, pamphlets, addresses, or books upon educational questions, to diffuse among our members a more general knowledge of the value of a sanctified education and of a well-instructed ministry, and thereby awaken in them a better appreciation of our institutions of learning and of the obligations resting upon them to give of their substance for their support.

3. To make an annual report of the condition, financially and otherwise, of the colleges and other educational institutions of the Church; to make such recommendations to the managers of these institutions as will tend to make them more efficient; to secure, as far as may seem desirable, harmony or courses of study between preparatory schools and colleges and universities; to discourage the multiplication of schools and colleges when they can not be properly supported; to recommend methods of endowment, plans of building, how best to secure funds, and give any

other counsel which the interest of these schools and the Church may demand.

V. To accomplish these results, the board may cause an annual collection to be taken on the next Sabbath following the last Thursday of January, or at such other time as the presiding elder of the district may deem most suitable. The preacher in charge, or some other competent person, shall first preach a sermon or make appropriate remarks concerning the object, plans, and working of this board, and then take a collection in such a manner as will secure the largest amount of funds. If the board deem it best, it may appropriate the amount to be raised to the various conferences, according to their number and ability, and these in turn shall apportion to their respective fields of labor.

VI. Young persons aided by this board must first be recommended by the conference in whose bounds they live, or to which they belong, or by the Board of Missions when the applicant does not reside within the bounds of any conference, as suitable persons to receive aid, or by an educational committee appointed by said conference, to whom all requests for aid, not acted upon by conference, or which shall occur during the interim of its sitting, shall be referred.

VII. The funds raised in any conference shall

be applied as follows : one third to be sent to the treasurer of the Board of Education, to assist young men in their theological course, and the remainder shall be in the hands of a treasurer elected by the conference and used for the aid of young men in securing an education, as the conference may direct. This, however, shall not prevent the board from assisting applicants who come from weak or mission-conferences to such an extent as they may deem best, nor in applying donations and bequests in such a manner as donors may desire.

VIII. The board shall have power to make persons honorary members of the same by the payment of \$50.00. The persons thus made honorary members shall have the right to sit in the meetings of the board and engage in its deliberations, but shall have no right to vote.

IX. The board shall have power to appoint an executive committee from its own body, and to make such by-laws to regulate its own proceedings, and to effectually accomplish the object of its creation, as shall not be inconsistent with this constitution.

X. The board, through its corresponding secretary, shall make to the General Conference a report of all the work done during the preceding four years, including money received by collec-

tions, bequests, or otherwise, the amount paid out, and the purposes for which it was paid. The board may propose to the General Conference, from time to time, such plans as it may consider useful or necessary for the success of the work committed to it.

XI. No addition or amendment to the provisions of this constitution shall be made unless by consent of a majority of the members of General Conference present at any of the sessions. Notice of this proposed addition or amendment shall have been given at least one day previous.

CHAPTER XXII.—BOUNDARIES.

SECTION I.

Boundaries of Bishops' Districts.

Eastern District.—Pennsylvania Conference, Eastern German, Virginia, Parkersburg; Alleghany, Erie, Muskingum, and Tennessee.

North-Western District.—Fox River Conference, Michigan, St. Joseph, Upper Wabash, Rock River, North Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, West Des Moines, Dakota, West Nebraska, Colorado.

South-Western District.—Arkansas Valley Conference, Osage, West Kansas, Kansas, South

Missouri, Missouri, Southern Illinois, Illinois, Lower Wabash, White River, Indiana, Central Illinois, East Des Moines, East Nebraska.

Ohio District.—Scioto Conference, Sandusky, Miami, Auglaize, Ohio German, Ontario, North Ohio, Western Reserve, Kentucky, Central Ohio.

Pacific District.—California Conference, Oregon, Walla Walla.

SECTION II.

Alleghany Conference.—Beginning at the south-west corner of Mercer County, Pennsylvania; thence east, to the south-east corner of Potter County; thence north, to the state line between Pennsylvania and New York; thence east on said line to the point where the Northern Central Railroad crosses said line; thence south-west to the north-west corner of Union; thence along the line of Eastern German Conference, to the mouth of the Juniata River; thence up said river to Tuscarora Mountain; thence southward along said mountain to the state line between Maryland and Pennsylvania, west of Fulton County; thence along the southern boundary of Pennsylvania to the south-west corner of said state; thence northward along the western boundary of Pennsylvania to the south-west corner of Mercer County, the place of beginning.

Arkansas Valley Conference.—Beginning at the north-west corner of Osage Conference; thence west to Colorado line; thence south to the south line of the state; thence east to the south-west corner of Osage Conference; thence north to the place of beginning.

Auglaize Conference.—Beginning at Union City, Indiana; thence west with the Bellefontaine & Indianapolis Railroad, to Winchester; thence on a straight line to the south-east corner of Huntington County, Indiana; thence on the east line of said county north, to the Wabash River; thence down said river to the crossing of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad; thence with said railroad to Ft. Wayne, including said city; thence to Paulding Center, including all territory now occupied by said conference; thence due east to Auglaize River; thence along the line of Sandusky Conference, including Ada, North Washington, and Dunkirk, to Forest; thence with the Cleveland, Sandusky & Cincinnati Railroad, to the line of Hardin County; thence on the east line of said county, to the south-east corner thereof; thence on the north and east lines of Union County, to the Delaware and Springfield branch of the C. C. C. & I. Railroad; thence with said railroad to Milford Center, Ohio; thence with the Pan-Handle Railroad

including Urbana and Horatio, to Union City, the place of beginning.

California Conference.—Includes the State of California.

Central Illinois Conference.—Beginning at Peru, on the Illinois River; thence up the Illinois River to the mouth of the Kankakee River; thence with the Chicago Branch of the Illinois Central Railroad to Tolono; thence with the Great Western Railway to Bement; thence direct to Shelbyville; thence down the Okaw River to Vandalia; thence direct to the mouth of the Illinois River; thence up said river to the place of beginning.

Colorado Conference.—Bounded by the Union Pacific Railroad on the north, and by the state lines of Colorado on the east, south, and west.

Dakota Conference.—Beginning at the north-west corner of Mononee County, Iowa; thence east to the south-east corner of Sac County; thence north on the county line to the line of the Illinois Central Railroad; thence east by said railroad to the east line of Webster County; thence north to the south line of the state of Minnesota; thence west on said line to the south-east corner of Noble County, Minnesota; thence north to the north-east corner of said county; thence west to the west line of Minne-

sota; thence to the north-west corner of Pipestone County; thence west to the Missouri River; thence down said river to the place of beginning.

East Des Moines Conference.—Beginning at the mouth of the Iowa River; thence up said river to the east line of Marshall County, Iowa; thence south to the Mahaska County line; thence west to the corner of said county, thence south to the Des Moines River; thence up said river to White Breast Creek; thence up said creek to the west line of Marion County; thence south to the corner of said county; thence south-west to the Wayne County line, six miles east of the north-west corner of said county; thence south twelve miles; thence west six miles; thence south to the Missouri state line; thence east on the line between Iowa and Missouri to the Mississippi River; thence up said river to the place of beginning.

Eastern German Conference.—Beginning at the Atlantic Ocean; thence along the 40th parallel of north latitude to the Delaware River; thence to the north-east boundary of the city of Philadelphia; thence west and south along the boundary line of said city to the Schuylkill River, leaving the city of Philadelphia and Camden, N. J., to be occupied in common by the Pennsylva-

nia and East German conferences, the former exclusively in English, and the latter exclusively in the German language; thence up said river to the foot of Penn Street in the city of Reading; thence up said street to Tenth Street; thence north along Tenth Street to the city limits thence westward around said city limits to the Lebanon Valley Railroad; thence west along said railroad to Beaver Creek, leaving the following appointments south of Lebanon Valley Railroad and now occupied by said East German Conference to be occupied by said conference—namely, Shafferstown, Blue Church, Avon, Elmira, Fishbums, and Snavelys; thence up said Beaver Creek to the South Mountain; thence across said mountain to Stony Creek; thence west to the Susquehanna River, leaving Dauphin to be occupied by the Pennsylvania Conference; thence up the Susquehanna River to the line of Juniata County; thence in a north-western direction to Richfield, including that point; thence across to the mountain to a point in Pennsylvania Valley called Old Fort; thence north-east through the Nitiny to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, down to the place at the river where it strikes the Alleghany Conference line; thence along that line to the state line of New York.

Also Otterbein and Third churches, with any exclusively German missions they may open in the city of Baltimore.

Erie Conference.—Beginning on the shore of Lake Erie, at the north-west corner of the State of Pennsylvania; thence south along the state line between Ohio and Pennsylvania to the south-west corner of Mercer County, Pennsylvania; thence east with the line as described in the bounding of the Alleghany Conference to the New York state line, and including the State of New York and all that part of Pennsylvania embraced within the above described limits.

Fox River Conference.—Beginning at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; thence by the railroad lines to Watertown and Portage City; thence up the Wisconsin River to the Michigan state line; thence with the state line south-east, and the western shore of Lake Michigan to the place of beginning.

Illinois Conference.—Beginning at the junction of the Mississippi and Rock rivers; thence up the latter stream to the crossing of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; thence east with said railroad to the Illinois River; thence down the Illinois River to its mouth; thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning.

Indiana Conference.—Beginning at the south-

east corner of Franklin County, Indiana; thence along the line of the White River Conference, as described in the boundaries of that conference, to the White River due west of Franklin, Indiana; thence down said river, and the Wabash, to the Ohio River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Great Miami River; thence up the state line between Ohio and Indiana to the place of beginning.

Iowa Conference.—Beginning on the Mississippi River, with the north line of the State of Iowa; thence due west on said line to the west line of Winnebago County; thence due south to the Dubuque & Sioux City Division of the Illinois Central Railroad; thence east along said railroad to the Iowa River; thence down said river to its junction with the Mississippi River; thence up the Mississippi River to the place of beginning.

Kansas Conference.—Beginning at the Southeast corner of Maumee County, Kansas; thence west to the center of McPherson County; thence north to the Nebraska and Kansas line; thence east to the Missouri River; thence on the Kansas and Missouri line to the place of beginning.

Lower Wabash Conference.—Beginning at Gosport, on White River; thence with the railroad to Greencastle; thence with the Indianapolis & Terre Haute Railroad to the Wabash River;

thence up said river to the mouth of Bruletts Creek; thence up said creek to Cherry Point; thence west on the line of the Indianapolis, Decatur & Springfield Railroad, to and including Tuscola; thence north by the Illinois Central Railroad to Tolono; thence west and south with the line of Central Illinois Conference to the junction of the Illinois Central and Ohio & Mississippi Railroad; thence by the Skillet Fork and Little Wabash rivers to Carmi; thence down the Little Wabash River to its mouth; thence up the Wabash and White rivers to the place of beginning.

Miami Conference.—Beginning at the mouth of the Great Miami River; thence north on the line between Ohio and Indiana, to Union City, and to include that city; thence east with the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railway to the east line of Champaign County, Ohio, including Piqua; thence south on the east lines of the counties of Champaign, Green, Clinton, and a part of Brown County, to Ripley; thence down the Ohio River to the place of beginning.

Michigan Conference.—Beginning at the north-west corner of Branch County, Michigan; thence east on the north line of Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe, to the north-east corner of Monroe County; thence beginning at the

north-east corner of Monroe County, Michigan thence west, on the north line of Lenawee, Hillsdale, and Branch counties to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad; thence by said railroad to Kalamazoo; thence by the South Haven & Kalamazoo Railroad to South Haven; thence along the shore of Lake Michigan to Grand Haven; thence by the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad east to Detroit; thence down the Detroit River and the western shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning.

Muskingum Conference.—Beginning at the point where the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad crosses the line between Pennsylvania and Ohio; thence west on the line of said railroad, to the west line of Ashland County, Ohio, embracing Warner's Chapel, Benjamin Warner's, and Lower's appointments; thence south to the north line of Knox County; thence west to the north-west corner of said county; thence south to the south-west corner of Knox County; thence east along the lines of Knox and Coshooton counties, to Dresden; thence down the Muskingum River to its mouth; thence up the Ohio River and Ohio state line to the place of beginning.

Missouri Conference.—Embraces all that part of the State of Missouri lying north of the Missouri River.

Minnesota Conference.—Bounded by the state lines, embracing the whole State of Minnesota except the counties of Noble, Rock, and Pipestone. The above named conference also embraces the counties of Grant and Dual in Dakota Territory.

Nebraska Conference.—Embraces the south-eastern portion of Nebraska, and as far west and north as the lines describing the West Nebraska Conference boundaries.

North Michigan.—Includes all that part of the State of Michigan lying north of the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad, except that Ovid and Bengal circuits remain with Michigan Conference.

North Ohio Conference.—Beginning at the north-west corner of Branch County, Michigan; thence east on the north lines of Branch, Hillside, Lenawee, and Monroe counties, to the north-east corner of Monroe County; thence on the coast of Lake Erie to the mouth of Maumee River; thence up said river to Defiance; thence up the Auglaize River to a point east of the city of Paulding Centre; thence by the way of Paulding Centre to Ft. Wayne; thence—leaving Ft. Wayne to Auglaize Conference—on the Ft. Wayne and Chicago Railroad to Columbia, Whitley County; thence due north to the line of Noble County; thence east to the corner of

Noble County; thence north—including the Salem appointment within the North Ohio Conference, to the state line of Michigan, at the south-west corner of Branch County; thence to the place of beginning.

Ohio German Conference.—Bounded by the state lines of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. They are permitted to go into any of the western states or territories, where doors of usefulness open unto them to labor among the German population.

Ontario Conference.—Includes all of the Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada.

Oregon Conference.—Includes in its territory all of that portion of country lying west of the Cascade range of mountains, both in Oregon and Washington Territory.

Osage Conference.—Beginning at the south-west corner of Chautauqua County, Kansas; thence north to the south line of Kansas Conference; thence due east to the north-east corner of Linn County; thence south to the state line; thence west to the place of beginning.

Parkersburg Conference.—Beginning on the summit of the Alleghany Mountain, at the line between Pennsylvania and Virginia; thence along the summit of said mountain south-west to the line between Virginia and North Carolina;

thence west on said line to the south-west corner of the State of Virginia; thence with the Virginia and Kentucky line north to the Ohio River; thence with said river to the Pennsylvania state line; thence east on said line to the place of beginning.

Pennsylvania Conference.—Beginning on the summit of South Mountain on the line between Maryland and Pennsylvania; thence to Westminster, Md.; thence to Baltimore, including that city; thence south along the Chesapeake Bay to a point opposite the line between Virginia and Maryland; thence across said bay and along said line to the sea-coast; thence along said coast north to the line of the East German Conference; thence along said line to the Susquehanna River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Juniata River; thence up said river to Tuscarora Mountain; thence along said mountain to the east corner of Fulton County; thence west along said line to the line between Fulton and Bedford counties; thence along said line to the line between Pennsylvania and Maryland; thence along said line to the place of beginning. Duncan's Isle belongs to this conference.

Rock River Conference.—Beginning at the junction of the Mississippi and Rock rivers; thence east with the north boundary of the Illinois

Central, Illinois, and Upper Wabash conferences to the Indiana State line; thence north on said line to Lake Michigan; thence along said line to the place of beginning.

Sandusky Conference.—Beginning at the mouth of the Vermillion River, on Lake Erie; thence on an air-line south, to the south-west corner of Ashland County; thence with the north and west lines of Knox County, to the south-west corner of said county; thence to the north-west corner of Trenton Township, Delaware County; thence to the south-east corner of Genoa Township, of the same county; thence west on the Scioto Conference line, embracing Pleasant Valley, in Madison County; thence along the east and north lines of Union County, to the south-east corner of Hardin County; thence along the east line of said county to Forest; thence west on the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne Railroad to Johnstown; thence to Cairo; thence to Kalida; thence to Defiance; thence down the Maumee River and the southern shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning.

Scioto Conference.—Beginning at Dresden, on the Muskingum River; thence west on the south lines of Coshocton and Knox counties to the south-west corner of Knox County; thence to the north-west corner of Trenton Township,

Delaware County; thence to the south-east corner of Genoa Township, of the same county; thence west on the Delaware County line to the Whetstone River; thence to the north-west corner of Madison County; thence south, embracing Fayette, Highland, and a part of Brown County, to Ripley, on the Ohio River; thence up said river to the mouth of Muskingum River; thence up said river to Dresden, the place of beginning.

Southern Illinois Conference.—Embraces all that part of the State of Illinois lying south and west of the Central Illinois and Lower Wabash conferences.

South-western Missouri Mission-Conference.—Embraces all of that part of Missouri lying south of the Missouri River.

St. Joseph Conference.—Beginning at Peru, Indiana, on the Wabash River; thence up said river to Huntington; thence up the Auglaize Conference line to Ft. Wayne; thence by the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad, to Columbia City; thence due north to the line of Noble County; thence east to the south-east corner of said county; thence north on the east lines of Noble and Lagrange counties to the Michigan state line; thence west on said line to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad; thence

by said railroad to Kalamazoo, Michigan ; thence by the Kalamazoo & South Haven Railroad to Lake Michigan ; thence along the lake shore to the line of Illinois and Indiana ; thence south to Beaver Lake ; thence to the mouth of Big Monon Creek ; thence down the Tippecanoe River to the Wabash, to Lafayette, including Lafayette ; thence along the Strawtown Road, including the town of Jefferson, to the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad ; thence along said railroad to the place of beginning, including all the towns and churches north of Kokomo.

Tennessee Conference.—Embraces all that part of the State of Tennessee east of a due north and south line drawn through Nashville, the capital of the state.

Upper Wabash Conference.—Beginning at Gosport, on White River, to the crossing of the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad ; thence on the Strawtown Road to Lafayette, on the Wabash River ; thence up said river to the mouth of Tippecanoe River ; thence up said river to the mouth of Big Monon Creek ; thence in a north-western direction to the northern extremity of Beaver Lake ; thence to Kankakee City ; thence south along the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central Railroad to Tuscola, and including Tolono ; thence east with the line of Lower Wabash Conference to place of beginning.

Virginia Conference.—Beginning at the south-east corner of the State of Virginia; thence along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore; thence to Westminster; thence to the summit of the South Mountain, on the state line between Maryland and Pennsylvania; thence west on said line to the summit of the Alleghany Mountain; thence south, along the summit of said mountain, to the state line between Virginia and North Carolina; thence east on said line to the place of beginning. The Virginia Conference shall also include all the appointments embraced in the Alleghany and New Germany circuits, now occupied by the said conference within the limits of the Parkersburg Conference.

West Des Moines Conference.—Beginning at the north-west corner of Monona County; thence to south-east corner of Sac County; thence east along the Central Illinois Railroad to the east line of Marshall County; thence south on the line of East Des Moines Conference to the Missouri state line; thence west to the south-west corner of the State of Iowa; thence along the west line of the state to the place of beginning. Including Calhoun, Webster, Hamilton, and Hardin.

West Kansas Conference.—Beginning on the

north at the center of Republic County; thence south to the north line of Arkansas Valley Conference; thence west to the Colorado line; thence north to the Nebraska line; thence east to the place of beginning.

West Nebraska Conference.—Beginning at the north-east corner of Hamilton County; thence south to Nebraska state line; thence west to the south-west corner of the State of Nebraska; thence north to the north-west corner of the State of Nebraska; thence east to the north-east corner of Nebraska; thence south to the Platte River; thence up said river to the place of beginning.

Western Reserve Conference.—Beginning at the north-east corner of the State of Ohio; thence south on the state line to the crossing of said line by the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad; thence west, embracing Pleasant Valley, Paradise, and Carr appointments, with said railroad, to the west line of Ashland County, Ohio; thence north to the mouth of Vermillion River; thence east along the shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning; provided, that Orangeville Church in Ohio remain with Erie Conference, and Beaver Church in Pennsylvania remain with Western Reserve Conference

White River Conference.—Beginning at and in

cluding Indianapolis and suburbs; thence up White River to the crossing of the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad; thence along said railroad to the Wabash River; thence up said river to the Wells County line; thence south to the south-east corner of Huntington County; thence on a straight line to Winchester; thence eastward along the railroad to the Ohio and Indiana state line; thence south along the state line to the south-east corner of Franklin County, Indiana; thence westward to Greensburg; thence to Columbus; thence to Nashville; thence west to White River; thence up the river to the south line of Marion County; thence west to the southwest corner of said county; thence north to the north-west corner of the same county; thence east on the north line to the Peru & Indianapolis Railway. Kokomo and all the towns and churches on and in the vicinity of the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad, south, are within the bounds of White River Conference. All the towns and churches north of Kokomo, on and in the vicinity of said railroad, are within the bounds of St. Joseph Conference.

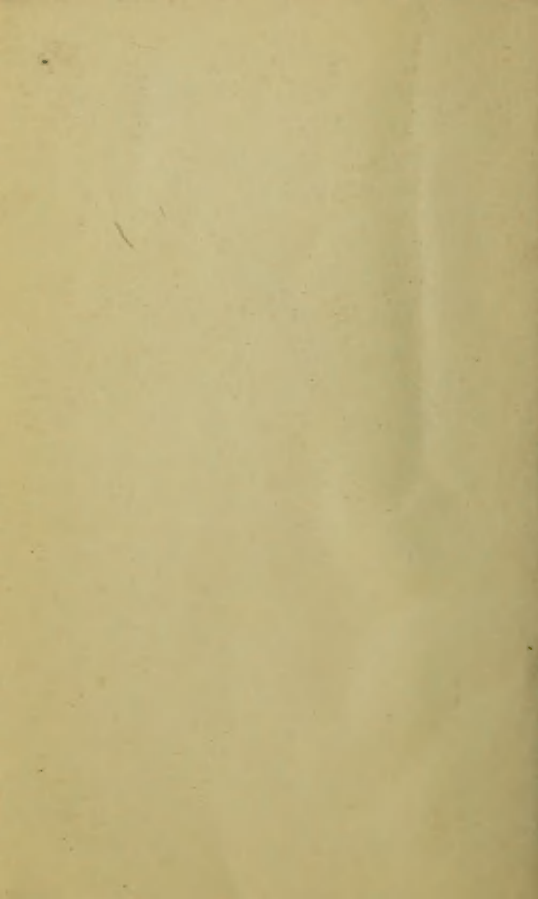
Wisconsin Conference.—Beginning at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; thence south to the Illinois state line; thence west on the line between Illinois and Wisconsin to the Mississippi River;

thence up said river and the Wisconsin state line to Lake Superior; thence with the shore of said lake and the Michigan and Wisconsin state line to the Wisconsin River; thence down said river to Portage City; thence along the Watertown & Portage City Railroad to Watertown; thence along the Milwaukee & Watertown Railroad to the place of beginning.

Walla Walla Conference.—Includes all that portion of Oregon and Washington Territory lying east of the Cascade Mountains, and also Idaho Territory.

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